

Industrial Worker

APRIL 1996

#1589, vol. 93 no. 4

\$1.00/50 p

EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

Bosses' Economy Thrives on Misery

"Dow plummets on job news," read the March 9 *Boston Globe* business section headline. "They've got to be kidding," the lead added.

But they weren't.

"Stocks and bonds took their worst pummeling in years yesterday in a selloff caused by a surprise report that more jobs were created in February than in any month since September 1983." That was the page one lead in the *New York Times*.

The *Times* went on to note that "the market probably overreacted to a monthly figure that may have more to do with the warmer weather that enabled people kept home by January's blizzards to find work" than with any real increase in employment.

But whether the money men "overreacted" or not, the basic fact holds. The government reported that 705,000 more U.S. workers found jobs and the capitalists panicked – desperately selling stocks and bonds for whatever they could get. The result was the second-worst market crash since the Great Depression.

When more workers have jobs we all benefit. The workers who get those jobs have the possibility of eating and keeping a roof over their heads (if an increasingly leaky one, as real wages have been falling for the last two decades). The strain on our collapsing social service system is eased. And, as unemployment falls, workers are in a stronger position to demand better wages and working conditions – knowing the bosses will have a harder time finding scabs if we should strike, or replacing us if we should take a walk.

Even the bosses benefit by putting us to work, one might think, since they live off the labor we do. Without our unceasing efforts to support them, the employers would quickly starve to death.

But the bosses know that the working class and the employing class have conflicting interests, and they are determined to keep millions of workers in poverty in order to keep the upper hand. (Unfortunately too many of our fellow workers have forgotten this simple fact.)

Thus, when things go badly – when workers are laid-off or wages fall or working conditions are undermined – the managers who carry out these crimes are rewarded

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General Strike Closes Hamilton...

Canadian Workers Fight Back

All 55,000 "non-essential" Ontario Public Service Employees Union members are on strike as this issue goes to press, and there is talk of the 12,000 "essential" workers joining the picket lines if the government does not abandon efforts to manipulate the "essential" list to force strikers back to work. Most government offices are shut down. Snow removal is limited and thousands of travellers are stranded.

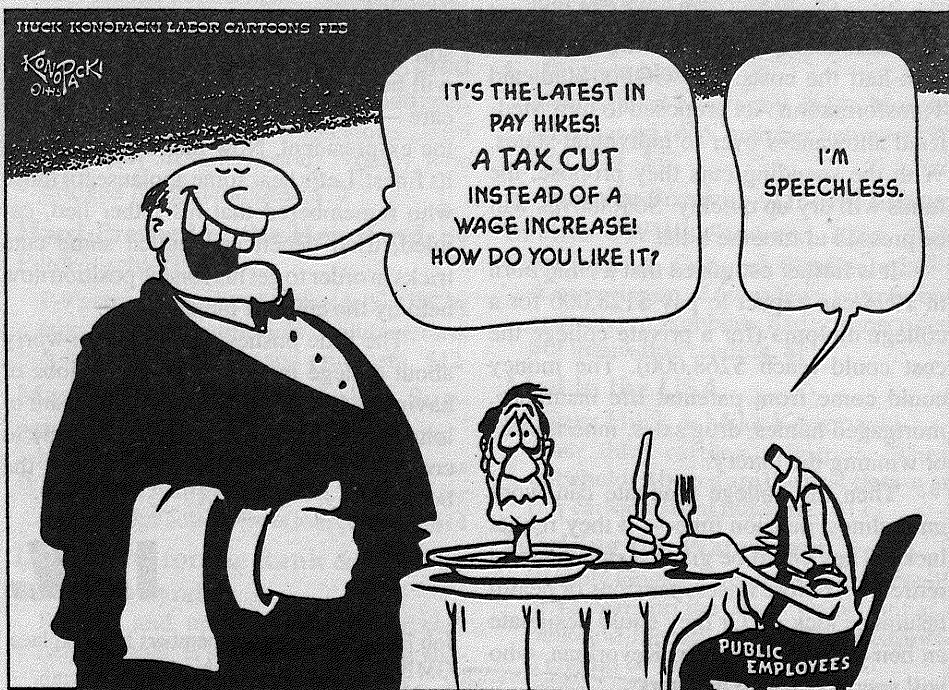
Ontario workers are in an all-out battle to turn back the anti-labor policies of the provincial government, which seeks to fire 27,000 workers, slash labor protections for public and private-sector workers, privatise public services (including fire fighting), slash education and health spending, and otherwise attack the working majority in order to enrich the handful at the top.

Workers have dubbed Ontario Premier Mike Harris the "Newt of the North." Harris says he will not yield to the demonstrations and strikes. "Canada's most populous province is grinding to a halt – sometimes a very abrupt halt," the *Boston Globe* reports. The current strike is the first strike of provincial employees in Ontario history – and the strongest obstacle yet in the way of Harris' slash-and-burn attack on social services.

The following report is by a participant in a Feb. 23-24 general strike in Hamilton (Ontario's "steel town"), one of a series of general strikes rolling across the province:

I ran through Hamilton's back streets to get ahead of the army of 120,000 marching toward Copps Coliseum from Confederation Park. I jumped over a toppled barricade in a deserted residential side street and realized downtown Hamilton was deadlier than Toronto on Sunday at 8 am – except this was Saturday at 12:45 pm.

The mass left the park behind schedule



because twice as many showed as expected. It was history.

And now history was moving out.

I kept up the double-time pace through the flotilla of buses and zeroed in on the Hamilton Convention Centre. Therein the Tory "policy planners" sat, hunkered down. They didn't dare appear on the streets.

Riot cops had secured the building. The Convention Centre – apparently a product of the "bunker nouveau" architectural school – was now revealed to have been a smart tactical choice by the Tories. But then the Tory Event Planning Kit now states: "When selecting a site for party meetings, have weapons personnel assess it for military defensibility."

I found the place where the parade route passed the Convention Centre's semi-underground entrance. Parade marshals in

orange skull-caps formed a line there. Big guys. About six metres behind them were piled gargantuan concrete blocks, like tank traps from Stalingrad. Behind that cement, rows of bullet-proofed riot cops peered out.

I took up a place beside the thin orange line, a little "reporter notepad" in fingers too numb from the cold to write with any delicacy. Across the street was Hamilton city hall. People peered anxiously out its huge windows, "Hamilton 150th birthday 1996" signs fluttering below them in a wicked wind howling through the urban heart of Hamilton. Atop city hall a police-installed camera was recording everything.

I asked the orange-caps why they were there. "We're just trying to keep anyone from getting hurt," one told me. "We're Hamilton Steelworkers and we're just trying..."

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Rank-and-file Teamsters in tough fight...

The Enemy Within

While it is true that there are powerful business and political forces at work to bust unions in the U.S., unions themselves have been the single largest contributor to the fall of organized labor in this country.

In support of this view, in the next several issues of the *Industrial Worker* we will present a profile of Teamsters' Local Union #814 located in Long Island, New York. At one point the union had approximately 5,000 members covered under contract and working in the moving and storage industry; today there are less than 1,000.

Racketeering Takes Toll

The lack of union democracy, which gave birth to and feeds labor racketeering in this union, has had a major bearing on this huge erosion in the union's membership base. According to Pat Perez, a dissident union member and founder of an internal union reform group known as the Brotherhood Team, it is doubtful that the local will survive past this year.

The resulting losses of this union's members will surely appear in the U.S. Dept. of Labor's annual "headcount." The figures will not, however, reflect that the union destroyed itself, with the active support and encouragement of the "internal"

union. Nor will the figures point to the lack of democracy in the union as the leading and underlying cause of its demise.

Similarly veiled will be the tragic loss of countless numbers of dedicated union activists who have been fired or blacklisted by the union because they dared oppose the small family clique and cronies who seized absolute control of this Union and hold it as if it were a personal property right.

Few unions have or will look at themselves internally for a cure. It's easier by far to close a blind eye and direct the blame for the demise of organized labor to the more

obvious external and natural enemies of labor outside the union. We hope to present the case in this series of articles that the Real Enemies of Labor lie within unions such as Teamsters Local 814, the union we are profiling here.

A Bloody and Ugly History

The history of this 40+-year-old local union is uglier than most. For two decades Teamsters local 814 was controlled by organized crime and operated by the Bonnano crime family and its associates. The union was doing "business as usual" until the

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In This Issue...

Borders Books Workers Lining Up in IWW

The Global Economy

International Workers Aid Continues to Bosnia

Raw Meat for Tigers

\$1.00, 50 pence UK



Industrial Worker
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
ISSN 0019-8870

Second Class Postage
PAID
Ypsilanti, MI
and additional
mailing offices

Address correction requested

Fishing Industry

May I congratulate the *Industrial Worker* for Arthur J. Miller's article (in January's edition), "Bosses Kill Fishing Industry." That article was of the highest quality, and it was riveting from start to finish! What a piece of work.

Thanks.

Chas. Stoll

An American Nightmare

It is estimated that nursing home care for older Americans will cost \$38,000 per person annually, with Medicaid paying more than half the costs. The GOP's Medicaid Transformation Act proposed to turn Medicaid allowances over to individual states. With the spending cuts they propose, the funds will dry up quickly. So relatives will be pressed to foot the bills.

It is further estimated that a child born in 1994 can expect to pay \$128,000 for a college diploma (for a private college the cost could reach \$268,000). The money could come from parental life insurance, mortgaged homes, drug sales, inheritances or winning the lottery.

Then the college graduate can work until almost pension time — if they're that lucky. They could be given a choice: early retirement before raises, pensions or health insurance kick in. Or they could designate an heir before calling Dr. Kevorkian, who will need to expand his work.

It is estimated that a home near good schools, adequate police protection and shopping will cost \$350,000. The more down-payment, the less interest.

The American Dream has taken night-

Readers' Soapbox

mare proportions and it is estimated that mental illness and suicide attempts will grow within the next decade.

The working age will be raised to 72 in order that workers pay into the diminishing Social Security fund. Also, taxes need to be paid — providing the worker live long enough.

Despite the above statistics, there is one son who has publicly stated that he, for one, will be glad to pay for his father's nursing care — Gov. George Bush, of Texas, son of the ex-president. Now that's generosity at its finest. Let's hear some applause for those who remembered that his father lied, cajoled, used deceit and pulled some cute tricks in order to get his son the position now held by the chip off the ol' block.

The little bushes won't have to worry about college money or homes or jobs or having to live in ghettos or nursing care of longer working hours or not being able to complain about unfair practices by the bosses.

Weren't these the complaints that caused the French Revolution?

Phyllis Sembos

Where's Harry Monkkonen?

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Harry Monkkonen, a former Work People's College Student?

Jenny Velsek

(send replies care-of IWW headquarters in Ypsilanti)

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

We are grateful to William Johansen of San Francisco for his contribution of \$10 in February. Like most radical papers, we run a substantial operating deficit which we rely upon you, our readers, to help cover. Donations had been picking up recently, helping to ease the severe financial crunch facing this union. We regret to report that his was the only contribution received last month.

We hope to be able to report better

SAC Women's Committee

Our article last issue omitted the address of the Swedish Workers' Central-organization (SAC) Women's Committee. They can be contacted at Örebro LS, Sturegatan 6, 702 14 Örebro, Sweden.

results in the months to come — indeed, we must do better if we are to sustain this voice.

This newspaper needs your support to continue, and to improve. We need your contributions to the Sustaining Fund, your help in distributing the paper to local bookstores and other possible venues (very reasonable bundle rates are available), and your assistance in getting us news and photographs of labor struggles in your area.

In the past 18 months we have tried to improve the paper's coverage while simultaneously cutting expenses. We've succeeded in the latter (expenses are about half what they were two years ago). Our readers are the best judges of whether we've improved the paper, and your actions decide whether it will continue to improve.

Your help is crucial. Contributions to the Sustaining Fund should be sent to IWW headquarters in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Regional IWW— PO Box 508, Moss Vale 2577

CANADA

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB— B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB— 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>
Toronto Group— 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

BRITISH ISLES

Regional Organising Committee— 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835

ENGLAND

London Group and IU 530 Couriers Union— BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX, 0171-358-9124
Oxford branch— c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford
Health Workers IU 610 and Suffolk IWW— del Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Centre, 16 Old Foundry Road, Ipswich IP4 2DU

Swindon Region GMB and Research Councils IU 620 group— del: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA, 01793-610707

General Distribution Workers IU 660 and Kent IWW— del: Ray Carr, 40 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DU

SCOTLAND

Stevenson College IU 620 Branch— Rm 3.05 Bankhead Avenue, Sighthill, Edinburgh

WALES

Aberystwyth IWW— c/o 14b Vulcan Street, Aberystwyth, ph: 01970-624 590

IRELAND

Co. Wicklow IWW— PO Box 20, Bray, Co Wicklow. Del: Bob Cullen.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles GMB— Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.

IU630 Film Workers— Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. Los Angeles 90026 213/368-4604 <fwo@mach1.directnet.com>

Mendocino— Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group— P.O. Box 907, San Diego 92112-0907. 619/284-WOBS
Santa Cruz GMB— PO Box 534, 95061

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop— 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176

IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers—504 Eshleman Berkely 94720 510/642-4895. del.s: Monica Berini and Liam Flynn. Comnpsters del: Charles Long

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop— del: Jojo Mends, 1231 Second St., Berkeley 94710
San Francisco Bay Area GMB— PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140. e-mail: sfgmb@iww.org Offices: Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705 510/845-0540. Mon & Thurs 4 - 7 p.m., Tues, Wed, Fri 3 - 6 p.m., Sun. 6 - 9 p.m.
The Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp St.), Suite #216-2, San Francisco 94103 415/863-WOBS GMB meets 3rd Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m., Open Delegates Meeting 1st Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m. General Defense Committee meets 2nd Saturdays as needed. GDC contact: Steve Ongerth 510/549-0358

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop— 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852
Denver/Boulder— Del:Cliff Sundstrom 910E.8th Av.#202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group— George Nikas, 11 Clarendon Pl., Avondale Estates 30002. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu Lorenzo Ervin Kom'boa— 673 Wylie St. SE, 30316.

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB— PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96828; 808/247-8584; wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB— 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 1st Sunday 3 pm (call for location).

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group— Steve Donahue, 729 Bungalow Ln 70802. 504/389-9572.

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB— Del. Rafie Bey, PO Box 8882, 21224-0882. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC— Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609
Boston Area GMB— PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.

MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB— 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop— Albert Parsons 313/769-0695

IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop— 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB— 8 N. 2nd Ave E., #301, Duluth 55803 218/723-7887.

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group— C.G.Streuly 601/896-3515.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB— c/o Bob Tibbs, Jr., 10072 Hedge Dr., St. Louis 63137. 314/868-1472

MONTANA

Butte— Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz 59701. 406/782-4465

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop— 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776
Capital District Group— POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627
Rochester— Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005
NYC GMB— Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671. Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB— POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com> Bruce Mark Nevin, 141 E King St #8A, Lancaster 17602.
Reading Group— PO Box 8468, 19603. Del: Dennis Good 215/921-2459; Rick Page 215/562-3487
Philadelphia GMB— 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. 215/724-1424 ext. 1 <phillyiww@iww.org>
IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop— 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop— Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

Houston Group— PO Box 981101, 77098.

UTAH

Salt LakeBranch— Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/296-7196 email: slcgm@iww.org

VERMONT

Burlington Branch— c/o Thomas Jordan or Deborah Ormsbee, POB 1004, Williston 05495. 802/482-4601 or 863-0571 nfnena@igc.apc.org

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop— 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project— Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Puget Sound GMB— PO Box 20752, Seattle 98102 206/935-9012

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop— 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Madison GMB— PO Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del:Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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Printed by Teamsters union labor
Online Edition: <http://iww.org/~iw/>

ISSN 0019-8870 Official monthly
publication of the Industrial
Workers of the World. Second
Class Postage Paid Ypsilanti MI &
other mailing offices.

Postmaster: send address
changes to: Industrial Worker, 103
West Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Individual Subscriptions \$15
Library Subs \$20/year
(Member sub included in dues)

Articles not so designated do not
represent the official position of the
IWW. No ads. Donations welcome.

Press Date: March 11, 1996

Philly Book Workers Go IWW

The booksellers and cafe staff at Borders Bookshop in center city Philadelphia will vote March 27th in a NLRB election to certify the IWW as their representative. The IWW enters the election with a substantial majority of union supporters, and local organizers feel confident. However, Borders management has begun a series of small ("captive") hour-long meetings with workers in an attempt to weaken union support.

Borders workers start at \$6.50 an hour. James Withrow, a worker at the Philadelphia store, described the company as "progressive, with an open-door management style and health insurance extended to domestic partners." However, the low wages typical of the media retail industry led him and other workers to the IWW.

"The flexibility, low dues and grassroots structure of the IWW make this the best union for the media retail industry," Withrow said, encouraging workers at book, music and video stores to contact their local IWW branch or the Borders IWW Job Branch at 215/546-3010 (fax: 215/546-8905). "Any long-term wage and benefit gains can come only if a significant portion of this industry is unionized," Withrow added.

Borders executives have sent email to all store managers alerting them to the IWW drive and assuring them that it will be defeated. The message warns managers not to violate labor laws in their efforts to defeat the union. At one store the message found its way to workers, some of whom promptly called local IWW delegates for union authorization cards.

Boston Wobs

Boston IWW members joined some 150 workers on a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon Feb. 17th to protest union-busting efforts by Royal White Laundry in nearby Somerville. Royal has fired several union activists in an attempt to defeat an organizing drive by UNITE. Workers complain of dangerous conditions, long hours and low pay, and of discrimination against older, pregnant and injured workers.

Boston Wobblies have also co-sponsored a series of educational forums and are planning a May Day benefit concert at a local folk club to benefit veteran IWW singer U. Utah Phillips.

Wobs Remember Chernobyl 4/26

This is a meltdown year for nukes. After shedding crocodile tears over nuclear weapons testing by France and China, the

Around Our Union

US government itself plans to resume testing in Nevada this June. And Congress is on the verge of approving the transportation of irradiated fuel rods across US highways and railroads. In the midst of this premeditated lunacy falls the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

A catastrophic reactor core explosion threw radioactive fuel into the atmosphere above the Chernobyl nuclear plant on April 26, 1986. The Ukrainian government estimated that during the past 10 years the disaster has resulted in 8,000 deaths and 125,000 diseases, such as miscarriages and birth defects.

On April 26th, people all over the world will commemorate the tragedy by collecting food and medical supplies to send to those in the Ukraine.

When the Gateway Green Alliance in St. Louis asked for help planning local Chernobyl+10 activities, area Wobs were the first to answer the call. We agreed that collecting food and medical supplies for Ukrainians whose lives are still shattered would be the starting point for explaining threats that nukes pose here.

The immediate danger of the nuclear industry is exposure to workers and communities where radioactive material is mined, processed, researched and used for power and weapons. Exposure results in cancers, genetic damage, miscarriages and birth defects. The long-term effect is destruction of the gene pool of humans and other living things.

But nukes are good for business — only the largest multinationals can amass the capital to build them. The bosses are not about to stop nuclear production. If the working class does not put a halt to it, no one will.

There will be two Chernobyl+10 events in St. Louis. During the day we will gather downtown and march to corporate offices of Union Electric, which runs the nuclear power plant in Calloway County, Missouri. We will hold an educational event the evening of April 26 (hopefully at the same hall where the IWW meets) with singing, speaking and an open microphone.

We will be giving talks and showing videos to unions, environmental groups, peace and justice organizations, schools, etc. in the period running up to the 26th.

There are four key points about Chernobyl+10:

- 1) Activists should commemorate April 26 by collecting food and medical supplies to send to nuke victims in both the Ukraine and the US;
- 2) Nuclear testing should be halted everywhere in the world (including the US);
- 3) No transportation of irradiated fuel rods by US highways or railroads;
- 4) Mothball all nuclear power plants.

In recent years, several St. Louis Wobs and Greens have worked together opposing NAFTA, supporting strikes in Decatur, Ill., and trying to prevent local communities from being poisoned by incinerators. Though Greens and Wobs don't always see eye-to-eye on electoral politics, Gateway Greens had a campaign in 1992 that we could all agree on. St. Louis is home to the nuclear dump which has the waste from creating the bombs used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki. No one has any idea of what to do with the stuff, and it is now leaching into St. Louis drinking water. So in 1992 the GGA nominated the nuclear dump for president, hoping that if it were elected it could be

British Wobs Meet

British Isles-based IWWs met on 10 February 1996 in Oxford. Delegates and members were present from: London, The Couriers Union, Oxford, Swindon, Leicester, Birmingham/West Midlands and apologies were received from Edinburgh, Aberystwyth and a number of individuals.

Group reports

Oxford: Working class housing estates had been leafleted by the East Oxford Unemployed Workers Federation. A group had gone to Liverpool to support the dockers. A conference on Community Resistance was being organised, supported by the local trades union council.

London Couriers: A couple of new members had joined to replace a couple that had left. A new leaflet was ready. The union would consider actions rather than leaflets to promote its existence.

London: Members had been involved in strike support for locked out workers in North London who had been attacked by fascists.

South East: Adrian was in contact with two new members in Essex and the prospects for a new group emerging were good.

Swindon: The research councils group had suffered the loss of two members. Work was being done to support a tour by Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin of the UK.

Aberystwyth: Members had produced "The Industrial Unionist" and planned to sell it locally.

Worcester: Chris was building up links with potential members in Worcester and hoped to organise a meeting with them in the near future.

Birmingham: Members were involved in support for the dockers, had been to marches and had organised a meeting in support which raised substantial money from Birmingham trade unionists.

Midlands: A Midlands area banner was being made by an Oxford contact. The IWW would open up an Office in the Secular Hall, Leicester on a formal basis.

Joe Hill Memorial Weekend: The weekend had been good with the union selling hundreds of pounds of literature and making a number of contacts with other syndicalists. Of especial significance was the complete absence of any sectarianism.

UK Wobblies participated in a 23 February national march against the Asylum Bill and a 15 February picket in support of Bangladesh garment workers, and will join a April 9 march against the job seekers allowance being organized by Rank and File members of CPSA (Civil service union).

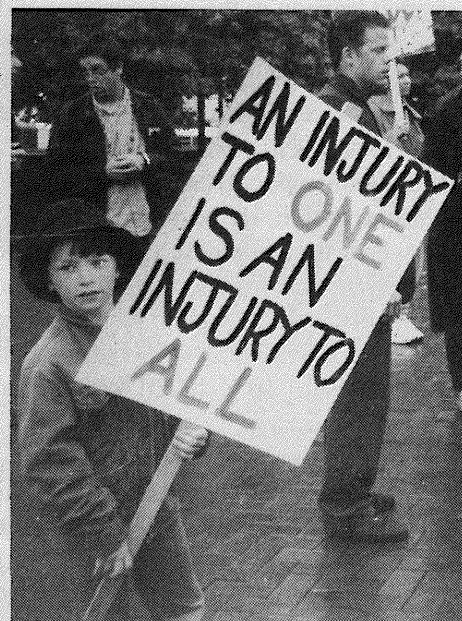
The next meeting will be in Birmingham in June.

moved to the White House. Unfortunately, the bosses' media ignored the campaign, even when Clinton, Bush and Perot had their first debate in St. Louis.

More than any other issue, nuclear production shows that it is pointless for unions to strive to "have a voice" in managing a rotten social system. The people who see the dangers and destruction which happen every day on their jobs need to take the lead in changing what we produce and how we produce it. The world will not survive economic decisions being made according to what is most profitable.

If you would like to participate in Chernobyl+10 activities, call Bob Tibbs at 314/868-1472 or Don Fitz at 314/727-8554.

—Don Fitz



Peltier: Protest 20 Years of Injustice

The Seattle Feb. 6th Leonard Peltier rally was part of an international day of protest against FBI abuse and for justice for Leonard Peltier. Protests were held across the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, Russia, France and Spain.

Though the Seattle area had days of heavy rains and floods, the rain ended within an hour of the rally and over 100 people came out. The rally was opened up (and closed) by Keith Johnson, a native elder from Alaska. Other speakers included LeRoy Mills, Yakima advisor for the North West Leonard Peltier Support Network; Arthur J. Miller, NWLPSN coordinator and veteran Wobbly; Harriet Walden from Mothers Against Police Harassment; Juan Jose Bocanegra, long-time Latino activist; Tyree Scott, African-American labor activist; Greg Jackson of *Black Autonomy*; and K.L. Shannon of Mothers Against Police Harassment.

After the speakers had thoroughly denounced the FBI for their abuses against Leonard and other activists, supporters marched around the building housing the FBI. Once they were back in front, they all turned to face the FBI offices, raised their clenched fists, and chanted "Free Leonard Peltier" for about ten minutes.

For the NWLPSN, the Seattle and Portland rallies mark the 23rd and 24th rallies in the past few years, and another is in the works. This struggle will continue. Please write Sen. Arlen Specter, U.S. Senate, SH-530, Washington DC 20510 to ask for a Congressional Hearing. If he can hold hearings for white supremacist Randy Weaver, why not for Leonard Peltier? Around this a new slogan has risen: "If Ruby Ridge, Why Not Pine Ridge!" Also, please continue sending letters to President Bill Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington DC 20500. It matters not how the government frees Leonard; if enough people demand it, they will find a way.

— Send In Your News —

All IWW branches should send in regular news of their activities for publication.

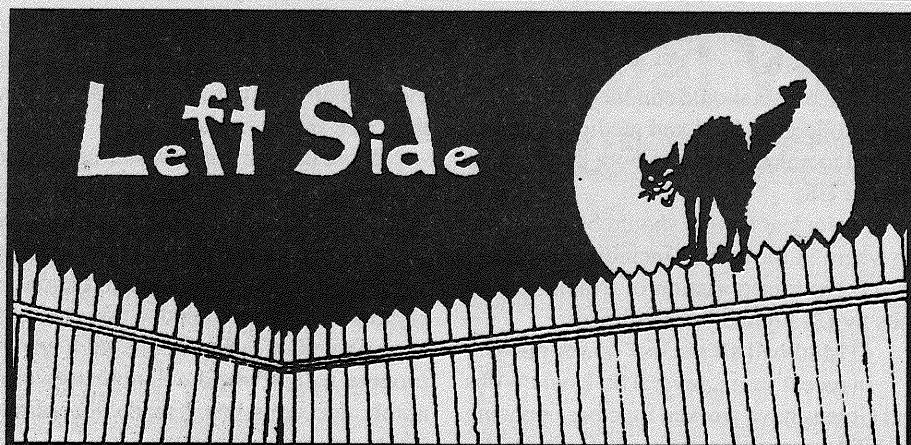
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Here in the great Windy City is a long-standing capitalist rag whose pro-establishment policy makes most other dailies appear liberal by comparison. This paper's policy has been consistently anti-labor since before the days of the Hay-market tragedy in the past century, and at best subliminally racist. One of the top columnists for the *Tribune* is Mike Royko, whose writing personifies the policies of that paper. While he is not the official editorialist, his by-line is very popular and no doubt the first read, even before the sports pages and the comic strips.

He writes in a breezy wise-cracking style, playing himself off as the guy next door. Phoney populists have been legion in the capitalist press for ages, and Royko is no exception. He writes like he is in sympathy with the ordinary working stiff, but whenever it comes to a union situation where workers are having a struggle with the boss he can be expected to be anti-labor to the hilt. He plays his role as Joe Six-Pack very well, though in his case Joe Twelve-Pack might be more appropriate.

Like all who play to the gallery, he plays to the most reactionary elements of his readership, so it should be no surprise that he plays up to racist sentiments as well. His primary targets have been the Spanish-speaking population, more so than the Black population. This despite the fact that the *Tribune* publishes a freebie called *Exito* that is distributed in Spanish-speaking areas of the city.

His main target is the Puerto Rican population; commenting on the independence movement, Royko said he was for it if it meant that the Puerto Ricans would be shipped back to Puerto Rico. This is but one of his snide remarks that have aroused resentment among minority groups in the city.

Nobody knows better than the Mexican residents of Chicago about the corruption that is rife among the politicians down in Mexico, and the fact that politics there is heavily tied in with the drug trade. But in one of his recent columns commenting on the situation Royko wrote, "The only thing wrong with Mexico is that it is run by Mexicans." This angered the Mexican community, and many members of that community demanded an apology from Royko. His subsequent "apology" turned out to be more of the same drivel, with the result that on the first of March there was a huge protest demonstration in front of the Tribune Tower.

There were over a thousand people there with Mexican flags, banners, mariachis and the whole bit. Even the TV channel that is a subsidiary of the *Tribune* in its evening news report admitted that there were a thousand people at the demonstration. The Tribune Tower happens to be on one of the main thoroughfares leading into the heart of Chicago, and all automotive traffic was rerouted for over an hour, with the result that one block of Michigan Avenue was wall-to-wall Mexicans. The police, as can be expected, were there in force but were surprisingly well-behaved. Of course any conflict with the thousand-plus demonstrators would have resulted in unfavorable publicity for the city of Chicago, especially with a mayoral election coming up. It has to be remembered that Chicago has the second largest Mexican community outside of Mexico.

Despite the fact that the demonstrators represented diverse elements of the ideological spectrum — established politicians, those liberal elements who believe in working within the system, and hot-headed young militants — the most violent acts were the symbolic burning of copies of the *Chicago Tribune*.

Your not-so-humble scribe, who through one parent is himself of Mexican heritage, naturally was there, and it was a great day in his life. Besides a profusion of Mexican flags, I was happy to see the banner of the United Farm Workers Union as well as numerous other hand-made banners. One such banner, made by a community artist, depicted Royko in caricature dressed as a pilgrim crucifying a Mexican. This particular banner was so huge that it showed up well in the evening TV newscast. A couple of other banners bore the legend, "We did not cross the Border; The Border crossed us!" — referring to the half of Mexico that was taken over by Freedomland in the last century.

The demonstration was conducted peacefully. But halfway through the demo the police pulled up with a couple of paddy wagons with the rear doors open as an intimidation tactic which did not phase the crowd in the least, but on the contrary elicited shouts of "Culero!", a salty Mexican term alluding to the posterior portion of the anatomy. I was approached by an interviewer from one of the Spanish-language TV channels who asked me why I, a respected community graphic artist, was at this demonstration. I replied that as an artist I was against any form of exploitation, and that included racism. The paper has had a long-standing reputation of being anti-working class, and I have only one message to Royko: "Mike, be friendly; there's more of us where we came from!"

Your scribe derived additional pleasure in cautioning his fellow demonstrators not to step on the droppings of the police horses, telling them, "Have a little respect for the words of Royko. Don't step on them!" There was talk of initiating a boycott of the *Tribune* along with its Spanish-language freebie, *Exito*. There was also a sizable representation of the Puerto Rican community as well as many Blacks. These people have all been targets of Royko's racist remarks, which happily may bring about some solidarity among the minorities.

— C.C. Redcloud

Feeding Red Meat to the Tigers

In an Op-Ed article in the *New York Times* (Jan. 4), Labor Secretary Robert Reich suggested that "corporate taxes should be reduced or eliminated entirely" to induce profitable companies to "keep more employees on their payrolls or place them in new jobs that offer similar wages." An extra payoff, he said, would make companies more responsible to their employees and the communities in which they operate, at a time when the government's role in providing employment and other assistance to workers will continue to shrink. Reich's proposal is unwarranted and unrealistic on several counts.

Why do the nation's taxpayers have to bribe companies to treat their employees fairly? They're getting more than enough as it is. "Corporate welfare" costs the U.S. Treasury anywhere from \$100 billion to \$150 billion a year. Yet the politicians in Congress — Democrats and Republicans alike — look elsewhere for cuts to balance the budget, mainly the poor and disadvantaged.

Corporate lobbyists and tax lawyers know how to win enormous subsidies, tax deductions and special favors for their clients by manipulating the fine print in the tax code. Why, for example, should privately-owned California wineries receive \$46 million of our tax dollars to promote the sales of their wines overseas?

With all the handouts and special favors that corporations receive, they haven't shown much responsibility to their employees. Quite the reverse. They have ruthlessly fired tens of thousands of them in the holy

Needed: More Vegetables

"Organizing is not only our bread and butter," AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson told a crowd of unionists in Cambridge the other day, "it's our meat and potatoes, our green leafy vegetables, our coffee and our dessert." We can't have a labor movement that represents only one-sixth (or less) of the work force, she said.

It's hard to argue with that, but it's also hard to reconcile the AFL's actions with those sentiments.

The AFL-CIO plans to spend \$20 million on organizing this year, which sounds like a lot of money. But in the same speech, Chavez-Thompson boasted that the AFL plans to spend \$35 million this year on efforts "to take back the House of Representatives." That will probably be doubled by expenditures by AFL-CIO affiliates. The audience questioned the wisdom of relying on the Democrats to get labor out of its present bind, and asked how the AFL-CIO planned to make President Clinton behave better in his second term than he has in his first. The AFL is demanding a clearer message this time around from candidates it endorses, Chavez-Thompson said, and requiring them to sign on to the AFL's legislative program. Few seemed convinced. Perhaps they remembered Clinton's promises to reform the anti-labor laws and improve workers' living standards...

The AFL will be hiring hundreds of young people for a project called "Union Summer." While workers in these 3-week jobs will do some organizing support work, their primary tasks will be to boost the AFL's "America Needs a Raise" campaign and promote AFL-backed politicians.

Chavez-Thompson is an optimist. She believes the current National Labor Relations Board is the best in decades, that Clinton can be trusted to keep his campaign

name of global competitiveness.

Of course, business firms will take whatever they can get from the government — and even try to get more — but that will not affect how they run their business. Why should they retain more workers than they think they need, so they'll be eligible for still another tax break? And how practical is Reich's suggestion that companies place their terminated workers in "new jobs that offer similar wages and benefits" in return for an additional dip into the U.S. Treasury?

Reich's proposal looks even more absurd, assuming it would be acceptable. Who would decide what corporate action deserved a tax cut and by how much? How many employees would a company promise not to fire and what payment would they receive for each job presumably saved? How much would a promise not to relocate overseas be worth? Who would make these decisions? Yet another new government agency? Would there be a laundry list of corporate actions redeemable by a specified amount of tax abatement? And who would make up the enormous gap in the federal budget if, as Reich suggests, corporate taxes were eliminated entirely?

It is sad to say that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats have a satisfying answer to the related problems of corporate downsizing, stagnant wages and the steady erosion of decent-paying jobs. The truth is they don't have the heart to take on the corporations, who are the prime source for these problems. The AFL-CIO has no plans to fight union scabbing because that might violate the autonomy of its affiliated unions. The AFL-CIO's heralded new militance turns out to be more of the same — more money to the Democrats, more bureaucracy, more lobbying, and more energy down the black hole they call the NLRB...

It's a curious world view, one that seems likely to benefit Democratic Party politicians far more than rank-and-file workers. In response to a question, we were told that the AFL-CIO

Editor's Notebook



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The More Things Change...

Looking through my back file the other day, I was reminded of my desperate need for a file clerk to put my files in order. Then I could put the stories on computer, and simply switch the names each month.

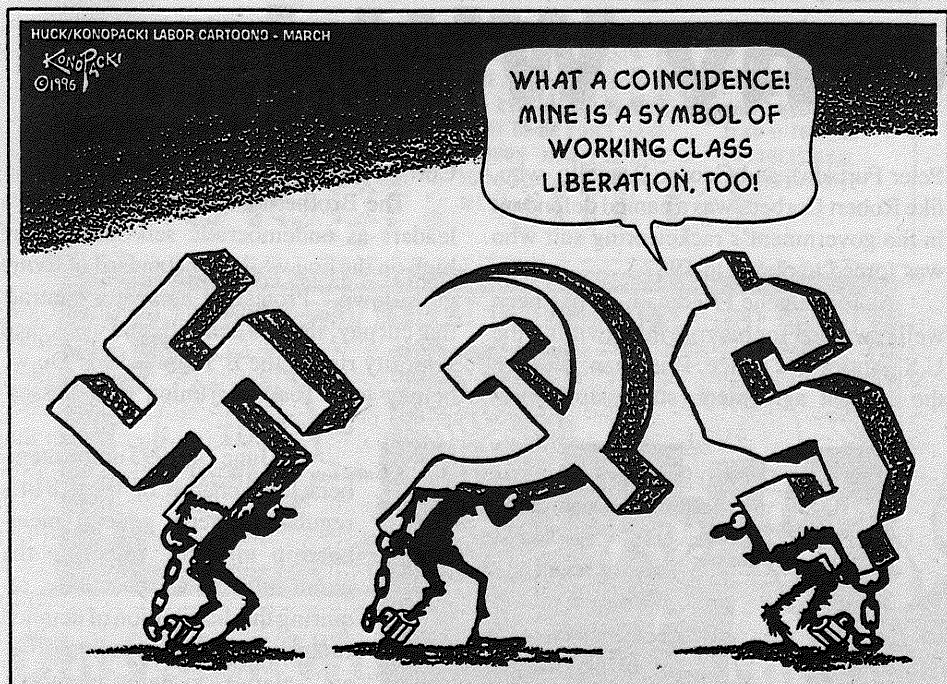
Our January 1986 issue, for example, reported on a struggle by Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Corp. workers against a rotating swing shift. The company unilaterally imposed the scheme, refusing to even open the envelope in which the union presented its contract proposal (the National Labor Relations Board ruled that this didn't violate their obligation to bargain).

Sound familiar?

There were some differences, though. Truck drivers and seamen refused to cross picket lines during a brief, two-week strike...

Homeless Amidst Plenty

Homes Not Jails reports that there are 23,000 vacant housing units in the city of Boston, and officially 6,000 people who need housing. While the police make sure these empty homes and homeless people don't come together, the government wastes



What happened to the left?

The following was written at the request of the independent Stanford University student paper, *The Thinker*:

If by "left" you mean Stalinism, that was de-fanged and de-throned long ago — though its putrifying corpse remains, weighing like an Alp on the minds of many radicals. If you mean "democratic socialism," you're out of luck too. The social democrats gave up on socialism decades ago. Its adherents these days strive for a place of respectability in the pantheon of capitalist ideologies. And liberals? Liberal ideology has metamorphosed from Jeffersonian enthusiasm for democracy to Madisonian disdain for the rabble multitude. The counterrevolution is firmly in the saddle.

Today what passes for "leftist" politics in America consists mainly of pallid reform measures, all operating under more or less the same precepts. Each attempts to reclaim from owners (the capitalist class) something of the product of labor (wealth measured by the Gross Domestic Product) for the sake of its original creators (the working class). The primary means of reclaiming this wealth is taxation; in any case, it is invariably done through the auspices of the State apparatus.

Predictably, the right reacts to these efforts and fights them, trying to block or turn back any incursions into the power and wealth of the ruling class. The result is something rather tiresome — a constant back and forth tug-of-war between two sides that aren't very far apart.

Is there any hope for change?

The latest statistics put out by the Federal Reserve state that just 1% of families in the U.S.A. own more wealth — in the form of stocks, bonds, business, rental property and so forth — than the other 90 percent. On a grand societal scale, this division of wealth indicates a class system in which a tiny minority possesses and controls the product of the labor of the vast majority. It does this through the wage system.

The I.W.W. wants to change that. Really change it. Remember the French General Strike? Late last year that country, with only 10% of its workforce unionized, man-

\$2.6 billion a year keeping over a million people in jail.

Cheap at Twice the Price

While the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions will spend nearly \$100 million this year on politicians and get nothing in return, the bosses get more bang for their bucks. Military contractor Raytheon spent \$570,000 last year lobbying the Massachusetts Legislature to change the state tax code. It worked, and Raytheon will save \$21 million this year off its tax bill. If the politicians came through like that for the labor fakers, the AFL-CIO's political policies would make a lot more sense.

—Jon Bekken

aged to beat back a rightist attempt to cut off wealth and free time which had been won by workers in previous generations. This was a small but telling demonstration of the power of an organized working class. It made an important point: Class-conscious workers, who know that pay can be brought in line with need, are the best hope for freedom, justice and equality in today's corporate-dominated world. We've got the numbers. We just need the organization to make it happen.

Real GDP and output per worker have never been higher than they are now. But living standards, benefits, real wages and salaries have either stagnated or declined in most industries for the past two decades. There are two reasons for this: 1) There has been a relentless attack on labor by the corporate ruling class (abetted by their minions in the State). 2) Mainstream unions and workers have, to a great degree, bought into class collaboration — bought into the notion that what's good for business is good for the country, and, by extension, for the average worker. The result? Many Americans have started blaming workers in other countries for their woes, instead of placing the onus of responsibility where it belongs — on the ruling business class. And so we get Pat Buchanan, perhaps our first baby-step down a reactionary road to fascism.

The ultimate goal of the I.W.W. is to create the kind of consensus within the working class necessary to abolish the wage system. In its place, we envision a society in which producers democratically control the distribution of the goods and services that they produce, while living in harmony with the Earth. Until that goal is achieved, we will continue the fight to reclaim as much as possible of what we produce — to put workers' output back in workers' hands, in the form of wages, benefits, and improved working conditions. We will fight to preserve and extend the Bill of Rights. We will struggle against all forms of oppression. And we will remain committed to the creation of those bonds of human solidarity that we all need if we are to succeed in our mutual efforts to achieve greater freedom for each and social equality for all — the two essential qualities of a more democratic society.

Yours for the works!

— Flora Tristan

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund

Alexandra Bley-Vroman, Kialua HI	\$100
Yeo, Kwang-kyoon, Honolulu HI	20
R. Jeffrey Blair, Honolulu HI	52
Teresa Pica & Robert Hamilton, Philadelphia PA	50
Susan Gass, Okemos MI	25
John & Lucy Witeck, Honolulu HI	40
Florence Stevens, Westmount Quebec	25

Contributions help support women members' participation in the IWW.

Farewell, Fellow Worker

Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone? Well, that wasn't quite the case with Michael. I realized pretty early on in our acquaintance that he was special. But I didn't take time to reflect on it 'til he was gone.

Michael Kozura died in a car crash on February 11th, following far too closely on the heels of Charlene Sato's death from cancer in January. It's been an emotionally draining two months for many of us in the Union.

There were times when I thought Michael was likely to die in an auto accident. I remember being a passenger in the back seat of Michael's '57 Studebaker careening down a deserted one way street in Detroit at 70 mph, going the wrong

from the desk of...

way. We were on our way to talk to some workers about organizing a food co-op and we were late and slightly off course. After that I made it a policy to ride with Michael as seldom as possible.

But Michael's death had nothing to do with his driving. A driver on the other side of a two lane highway had an asthma attack, swerved into oncoming traffic, glanced off one car and smashed head on into Michael's. No one to blame, only the gods I don't believe in to curse. In a flash the Union lost a good Wobbly, the world lost a good human being, and many of us lost a damned good friend.

"Don't make a saint of Michael" my friends tell me. No, he was no saint. He could be a cantankerous son of a bitch at times. And he'd smile and nod if he heard me say that. Michael was one of the organizers who brought the workers at the People's Wherehouse in Ann Arbor into the union. It became an IWW shop in 1984 and remained so until its doors closed in 1992.

He had gone to work there after dropping out of a doctoral program at the University of Michigan because, so I'm told, he had come to question the relevance of his studies to furthering the cause of the working class. Whether in graduate school or on the loading dock at the Wherehouse, Michael was always working class and proud of it. While at the U of M, Michael was involved in organizing a union for teaching assistants. He was one of the few who held the Graduate Employee Organization together during some long dark days when the University was challenging its existence in court and most people gave it little hope of surviving. Today it is a 1,200 member strong progressive union.

I met Michael at a 1984 party at his house for Wherehouse workers. Over the following months as they organized it became clear that Michael was excellent at defining issues. He had one of the keenest minds I've ever encountered. It became equally clear that he wasn't very diplomatic and was a little short on patience for people less dedicated than he was. One of his favorite fantasies about his opponents, usually bosses, was that he would chop off their heads like cabbages. So he made some enemies and angered some of his friends by pushing them hard to do the work necessary to build the union. Nope, not a saint. But he was wise enough to recognize his shortcomings and take a back seat in discussions while more diplomatic fellow workers persuaded the fence-sitters and negotiated with the bosses.

Michael was born and raised in Minersville, Pennsylvania. He spoke proudly of his working-class heritage. Once he told a tale, not to aggrandize himself, but to point out the power of working class solidarity, about his exploits as a youth in Minersville. He was a boy scout patrol leader. The mining companies were doing strip mining in the area. Almost everyone who has seen the process is appalled by the devastation it leaves behind, turning forested mountains into barren plateaus. Michael loved his community and its mountains. He took his patrol out on night maneuvers. They sabotaged the equipment being used for the strip mining. Many people in Minersville knew or suspected who was responsible. No one said a word.

Michael was no saint. But to my mind he was a working class hero. He died too young. He left work unfinished. He had returned to graduate school and was completing his thesis. Characteristic of Michael, it was about bootleg coal miners in Pennsylvania. It was a delight to hear the enthusiasm in his voice as he told about them. In the '30s the mine owners had shut down the mines in a third of the state. The miners would have been starved out, except that they chose to continue operating the mines, digging the coal and selling it. There was enough solidarity that judges refused to rule against them and the governor was afraid to send in the

national guard. Michael said they effectively ran a third of the state for 20 years.

A memorial fund has been established in Michael's honor. It's first project will be to get his writings on the bootleggers published. But we are hoping to take it well beyond that with an ongoing project to develop materials and programs to take into the public schools to teach students the proud labor history they won't find in their textbooks. Donations can be made to Michael's wife and IWW General Executive Board member Ingrid Kock at 377 Redondo, Youngstown OH, 44504.

We loved you Michael, and we miss you. But we'll carry on your work.

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase

General Secretary-Treasurer

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Benjamin Grossman, Seattle WA	\$50
Chris Greenlee, Seattle WA	50
Jacelyn Alper, Schenectady NY	10
Jennifer Godwin, Philadelphia PA	25
Timothy Dunn, Maplewood MO	10
Barbara Phinney, Seattle WA	15
Anonymous, Berkeley CA	35
John Gorman, Miami FL	10
Garnet Dishaw, Craven Sask.	25
James Ullrich, Knoxville TN	50
Richard Frazier, Eugene OR	25
Walter Gershenfeld, Flourtown PA	25

On a previous donation of \$50 by James Giddings, credit should also have been given to Denise Ginzler and Iona Giddings. The SLC Branch is taking up a monthly collection which is going directly to Utah.

— MOVING? —

Be sure to send in your new address.

The union destroyed itself, with the active support and encouragement of the "international" ... The lack of democracy in the union was the leading and underlying cause of its demise.

morning of July 14, 1982, when Vice President Anthony Giliberti was shot nine times in front of his home and left for dead in a pool of blood.

No official reason for the shooting was ever reported, however members believe that Giliberti was shot for "making waves" in the union. Several of the union's officers were implicated in the shooting in a complaint filed by the U.S. Attorney's office on August 25, 1982, in U.S. District Court. The complaint alleged that union officers James Vincent Bracco, Ignatius Bracco and Vito Gentile "together and with others, on or about July 14, 1982, attempted or conspired to attempt to murder Anthony Giliberti, former Vice President of the Executive Board of Local 814..."

After the failed 1982 assassination attempt, Giliberti blew the whistle on the union's officers from the federal witness protection program and again from the witness box in the 1985 criminal racketeering trial. The trial ended in 1986 with the conviction of four of the union's principal officers for crimes which included but were not limited to:

- collecting payoffs from moving and storage companies in return for a promise to call off 814 organizing activities and for discouraging other unions from organizing moving and storage barns;
- giving preferential treatment to moving companies in return for payoffs – which freed companies to use non-union workers; pay below contract scale; and not pay or underpay contributions to the 814 Pension and Welfare fund;
- conspiring to sell Teamster 814 pensions to company executives;
- accepting kickbacks for setting up a phony bargaining unit with fictitious employee names and payroll records in order to assist an employer in destroying a legitimate bargaining unit of another union.

This then was the "union" – a labor organization whose members were held captive by organized crime and associates and used for the purpose of advancing the extortionate schemes of the union's officers which

Trailmobile Workers Still Out

Some 1,000 Charleston, Ill., Trailmobile workers have been locked out since Jan. 22 after rejecting a proposal to extend a four-year wage freeze for three more years and leave intolerable working conditions in place while managers rake in hefty bonuses. Seventy workers picketed the company's Chicago headquarters Feb. 17.

Trailmobile hired scabs to resume production after workers refused on a 700 to 3 vote to consider the company's "best offer." Police are herding scabs into the plant, and have arrested one union member on a charge of dropping a nail in the street outside the plant. A manager was also arrested after hitting police in the process of attacking picketers with a high-pressure water gun.

Trailmobile is using Decatur as a staging ground for its scab-herding operation, and union workers there have been demanding that bosses not allow the scabs to park at their job sites. "There have been a couple thousand scabs here for a few years," a locked-out Staley worker said, "so if you want a scab I guess Decatur's where you go." Police are harassing local unionists trying to make the scabs feel unwelcome.

The Enemy Within...

continued from page 1

were antithetical to the basic values and interests of the union's members – not the mention the "labor movement."

Yet not so much as a whisper of protest could be heard from the halls of "Organized Labor" despite widespread and continuous negative publicity during the lengthy trial. The only protests came from a group of union dissident members who sought to clean up their union – these activists' efforts were greeted with physical assault, discharge and blacklisting by the union's officers.

The 1986 trial, convictions, and sentencing of the union's four principal officers did not close the book on racketeering in the union despite the government's claims to that effect. The corrupt mantle was simply passed on to family and friends in a reshuffling of the union's executive board. For example, convicted president James V. Bracco appointed his brother Ignatius Bracco to succeed him as president. It was at this juncture and through this reshuffling that the union's current president, Robert Corbett, began his ascent to power in the union – carrying with him all that he learned during his tutelage under convicted racketeer James V. Bracco and others so situated.

The Civil Racketeering Suit

In 1987 the U.S. Attorney's office filed a second racketeering lawsuit against the union's Bracco-appointed executive board members, the union's benefit funds, and members and associates of the Bonnano organized crime family.

Eugene Friedman, the union's attorney during the mob-controlled era, negotiated a consent agreement with the U.S. Attorney under which the union was to be placed in trusteeship for a period of one year. In return, the suit against the union defendants would be dropped. Thus a second transformation of the union's executive board occurred. Two Bracco appointees, including Robert Corbett, who were named defendants in the government's second suit were installed as an interim executive board in charge of the day-to-day operations of the union. A court-appointed trustee was installed as the third member of the interim board with voting rights limited to breaking a tie between the Bracco appointees.

It was foolhardy on the part of the U.S. Attorney to think that a notoriously corrupt union operated by organized crime for more than two decades could be transformed in one year by a trustee with limited power; or that the task was likely to be achieved by the heirs and assigns of those racketeers who had transformed labor racketeering into a perverted art form which had escaped the government's attention for the greater part of two decades.

Never Looked Back

The Trustee and Trusteeship are eight years removed from the union. Today, in 1996, members of the union continue to be held captive by the well-entrenched heirs and assigns of the corrupt Bracco regime. Indeed Bracco's cousin Peter Furtado now holds the second most-powerful position in the union as its secretary treasurer – with the once-removed Robert Corbett holding the principal office of president. Filling four of the other five remaining executive board seats are Joseph Corbett (Robert's brother), George Daniello, Francine Benatti (a long term union employee under the Bracco regime and recently married to Bracco's cousin

Peter Furtado), and George Boniello, who, like Robert Corbett, was a named defendant in the government's racketeering suit who was forced to resign in 1987.

As for Eugene Friedman, he has been well rewarded for his role in outwitting the U.S. Attorney's office. Friedman, through the consent agreement, successfully pre-

Corbett cartel.

The Brotherhood Team blasted 814's leaders as undemocratic sell-outs "living high on the hog while our standard of living goes down." Protesting against a contract that cut pay, slashed benefits, and weakened seniority rights, the B Team asked "Do we belong to a Teamster union or a bosses' union?"

On June 14, 1993 union members took charge of local 814's regular quarterly general membership meeting, rejecting the union minutes as inaccurate, requiring the distribution of detailed financial reports (including officers' salaries) to union members, and the removal of Funds' trustees if timely reports were not provided members by a certain date. The officers thereafter discouraged members from attending the meetings – and the quorum necessary to hold a general membership meeting has not been met in over two years.

Workers Blacklisted

On March 29, 1995, Administrative Law Judge Steven Fish ruled that local 814 officers had colluded with management in an

arbitration proceeding to ensure the discharge of a union dissident (and another union member who happened to be in the same situation). Michael Lonergan and Salvatore Pultro were veteran members of local 814 when Lonergan joined the Brotherhood Team.

They worked for Universal Van Lines, a moving company whose workers belong to local 814 (one couldn't say they are "represented" by the union), as drivers and helpers. They complained when they noticed that the boss was renting out trucks to non-union movers without a union crew, in violation of the union contract. So the boss fired them, complaining that "everything has got to go by the contract, you guys are with the union." The two then filed a grievance with the union, and an unfair labor practice charge with the government.

Although the local went through the motions of taking the grievance to arbitration, they allowed the Joint Board to be chaired by a boss who had previously paid a settlement to Lonergan for violating the contract. The union representatives were all officers who were the target of the B Team's reform efforts (and one of whom Lonergan had run against for the office of Trustee), and the officer who "represented" the two was the brother of the union president.

"The business representative allegedly representing Pultro and Lonergan said very little," Judge Fish found, and when he did speak it was to undermine their case. "The hearing transcript demonstrates that the deck was stacked against the grievants from the beginning." (This transcript exists only because Lonergan secretly taped the hearing; the Joint Board's record of the case consists solely of a form marked "this grievance is denied.")

The judge found that the two had been fired in retaliation for their complaints about contract violations, and ordered that they be reinstated and compensated for their lost wages. Despite the order, and more than three years after were illegally fired, the two have yet to receive a dime of back pay or get their jobs back.

Next Issue:

IBT Local 814 abandons 50-member bargaining unit to rid itself of union activists.



Above: Teamsters President Ron Carey swears in Local 814 officers. Below, Left to Right: George Boneillo, Peter Furtado, Paul Panepinto, Robert Corbett, Francine Benatti (now Mrs. Furtado), Joseph Corbett, and George Daniello



served a continuous bridge between the former union racketeers by whom he was employed and their current-day relatives and supporters who now control the union.

Law Firms Get Fat on Members' Benefit Funds

Coincidentally, Friedman's law firm is now paid counsel to both the union and co-counsel for the union's benefit funds. The funds' records show that Friedman, together with the funds' employer co-counsel, extracted \$2.1 million in legal fees from the funds for the four-year period ending June 30, 1994. Brotherhood Team activists argue that the fees are criminally excessive for benefit funds having less than 1,000 vested participants.

Union officers were not financially unkind to themselves either. In January 1992, in the face of a rapidly declining membership, the officers managed to live high on the hog. The local spent nearly half a million dollars on salaries, benefits and cars for its officers and staff. Twenty times more money was spent on cars for union officers than was spent to arbitrate contract grievances. Indeed, the union spent \$114,714 more than it took in in 1992, leaving just \$93,203.05 in the union treasury.

Some of these fat-cats did quite well. Local 814 President Robert Corbett pulled in \$117,003 in 1993, though \$80,000 of that came as a political perk from "reform" International President Ron Carey, who appointed Corbett to head the Teamsters' Household Goods, Moving and Storage Trade Division (since folded into another division). Carey made the appointment over the protest of members who argued that Corbett was unqualified and unfit to lead the national trade division based on his performance and record in the local union.

In late 1995, the union's officers turned to the members for financial relief. In order to keep the "union" afloat, members approved a 5 cent assessment which would go to the union for each hour they worked.

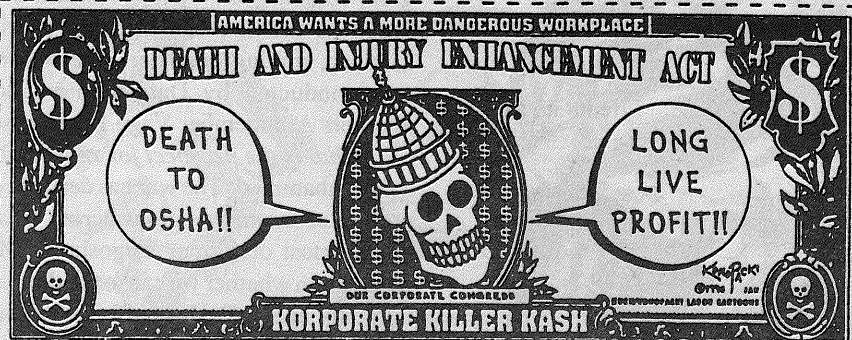
Brotherhood Team Moves to Save A Dying "Union"

The Brotherhood Team, a membership-based opposition group, was formed in July of 1992 because members saw their union dying under the combined bastardized influence and "leadership" of the Bracco-

EVER SINCE THE REPUBLICANS WERE SWEEPED INTO CONGRESS BY AN ANGRY ELECTORATE, IT'S BECOME OBVIOUS THAT WHAT MOST LOYAL AMERICANS WANT IS MORE DEATH AND INJURY IN OUR WORKPLACES. THEREFORE THE GOP HAS INTRODUCED A BILL TO OUT OSHA.

WHILE MOST WORKING FOLKS WOULD GLADLY GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, MANY OF US DON'T MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO GIVE TO POLITICIANS. BUT NOW WE CAN!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CLIP OUT THE "KORPORATE KILLER KASH" BELOW AND SEND IT TO YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE.



Chrysler Workers End Wildcat

Three thousand assembly workers at Chrysler Corp.'s Dodge City truck plant struck for three days to protest the firing of two UAW local leaders, returning to work February 20 under pressure by national union officials. An initial attempt to end the strike failed when picketers blocked entrances to the plant.

The walkout started after the company dismissed United Auto Workers Local 140 President Randall Pearson and Shop Chairman Herman Ector February 17th for allegedly ordering a shutdown of the Dodge City production line on Feb. 9.

Chrysler said Pearson ordered production halted because the plant was not following work rules. That shutdown caused a production loss of 168 trucks, estimated to be worth more than \$2.5 million.

But when Chrysler fired the two, workers struck, saying they would stay out until the company gave Pearson and Ector their jobs back. "If everything is resolved, and Randall Pearson and Herman Ector are back to work, I guess we'll be back in the morning," said one worker on the picket line.

The union has been pressuring the Big Three automakers to add workers when production lines are sped up.

UAW Orders Union Scabbing

General Motors assembly plants are running out of brakes and shutting down plants as we go to press, as a strike at two brake-parts factories in Dayton, Ohio, threatens to cripple car and truck production by the world's largest automaker.

General Motors' factory in Oshawa, Ontario, ran out of parts to install in new vehicles March 7 and closed, idling 6,500 workers who had been making the Chevrolet Lumina, the Monte Carlo and the Buick Regal. A GM engine factory in Lansing, Mich., closed the day before after running out of engine bearings, which are also produced in Dayton.

Fewer than 3,000 members of the United Automobile Workers are on strike in Dayton, trying to block GM efforts to shift production from the factory to non-union contractors. They have immense industrial power because almost all of GM's 29 as-

Conspiracy to Maim, Injure, Kill

When the Philadelphia Area Project for Occupational Safety and Health printed U.S. Rep. Cass Ballenger's portrait on a "Wanted" poster, it didn't expect to win his friendship. But it also didn't expect a congressional investigation as a result of a poster accusing Ballenger (Republican of North Carolina) of "Conspiracy to Maim, Injure and Kill American Workers."

"We didn't expect Ballenger to retaliate as he did by having a congressional committee investigate whether we receive federal funds," says Philaposh director Jim Moran. "Why doesn't he deal with the real issue?"

The real issue is legislation proposed by Ballenger to amend the 25-year-old law that established the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Business owners think OSHA is too tough, but labor organizations say OSHA is actually too easy on employers.

Ballenger's bill would divert half of OSHA's budget from protecting workers to offering technical advice to employers, make it much more difficult to adopt new safety standards (it already takes eight to ten years), and replace employer fines with warnings.

sembly plants in North America use brakes from the Dayton factories.

However, UAW officials have ordered 300 of their 3,200 workers to cross picket lines to make parts for Chrysler Corp. and for American Isuzu Motors Inc. "I think it's quite ridiculous," said David Yettaw, president of a large UAW local in Flint, Mich.

This is GM's second try at subcontracting the works. A three-day strike two years ago forced GM to agree not only to keep the Dayton factories at full production but to expand them. However, the company failed to add the extra parts production agreed to in the 1994 agreement.

D.C. Gas Workers Fight for Survival

Members of the International Union of Gas Workers are in a life-and-death struggle with Washington (D.C.) Gas Co., which locked 1,100 workers out for 109 days after they rejected a concessions-laden contract, allowing them to return to work only under the company's terms. Washington Gas earned \$60 million in profits and paid CEO Patrick Maher \$1.8 million over the past two years, but demands that union workers surrender work rules and grievance rights along with concessions on pay and benefits.

The IUGW (the union only represents workers at Washington Gas) has launched a corporate campaign against Crestar Bank. Washington CEO Maher sits on the Crestar Board of Directors, and corporate lawyer Karen Hastie Williams sits on both the Washington Gas and Crestar boards. The IUGW urges unionists to write Crestar Financial Corp. CEO Richard Tilghman (919 East Main St., Richmond VA 23261) protesting the bank's cozy ties to union-busting Washington Gas and supporting the union's boycott of Crestar. Several unions have indicated their intent to withdraw tens of millions of dollars if the bank does not force Washington to the table.

In addition to the overlapping directors, Crestar has extended large loans to WG officials and to the company itself. Crestar has a shaky civil rights record, having been named "Redliner of the Year" in 1991 by ACORN. It paid \$190,000 in 1993 to settle a complaint that it discriminated against minority applicants for part-time teller jobs. The bank celebrates Confederate General Robert E. Lee's birthday side-by-side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s.

Hong Kong Wildcat Wins

Four hundred China Motor Bus maintenance workers went back to work March 9th after a 10-hour wild-cat strike over fears their overtime pay would be cut.

TVs back on and let everything just go ahead like normal?

So you protest. So you stage one of the most beautiful, unified, common-purpose events in Ontario history. And then nothing changes. Then what? Do we all "just deal with it?" Is that "democracy?"

The speakers differed on this point: some, like the head of the Ontario Federation of Teachers, seemed to just say, "Gosh, I guess we have to take it. But just wait till next election." Others were non-committal. While the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, the Nurses, the Students, all clearly said we can't afford to wait four more years. There will be nothing left to fight for.

Harrisites and related parasites want to turn Ontario's clock back 200 years on class relations. The social democrats only want to turn it back 20 years. But both are living in the past.

Pro-business media pundits, champions of the overdog, turned up their noses at the 120,000: "Protest all you want. Things have to change. The system is broken."

I have no problem granting them that. But that sure doesn't mean the Harris agenda is the solution. As the Harrisites continue to clearly define Ontario's class war, the "other solutions" also become increasingly distinct.

When you start laying those solutions out the real question becomes: How far are we willing to go?

— Zodiac

40,000 Seek 400 Jobs

Toyota has been swamped by more than 40,000 job hunters hoping to fill 400 openings later this year at its giant auto plant in Cambridge, Ontario, followed by another 800 jobs to come before the turn of the century.

General Strike Rocks Ontario

continued from page 1

ing to protect Hamilton." They practiced a comradely sort of crowd control, laughing and joking with people as they asked them to leave the cops alone.

In a few minutes, the march came into sight: "Hey Mike! Hey Mike! How'd You Like A General Strike?" I glanced at my watch: 1 pm exactly. The riot cops in the semi-underground all stopped talking and stood very straight.

Most marchers didn't realize what they were passing at first. But one glimpse of the riot police made it clear: the Tories were holed up here.

The marchers — teachers, nurses, students, factory workers, the unemployed — shouted at the police behind the Steelworkers: "Traitors!" "Your jobs are next!" "Join us!" "Shame! Shame! Shame!"

In a word, Hamilton was awesome. No doubt, like me, you too have been reared in a culture where our organs of propaganda instruct you almost daily that a pair of new running shoes for your feet to stink up can also be "awesome." So the word might lose something in the translation. But look it up. There was an elemental power in that mass of 120,000 human beings with a unified purpose. As an individual in the middle of it, one can honestly attest to a feeling of awe.

It was Ontario labor's "Woodstock": all these extremely diverse people, smiling at each other, helping lost kids find their parents, listening to tunes by Moxy Fruvous, regaled by speaker's talking of ideas that stopped just short of revolution.

I rode in on bus 979 — an old battered orange school dirge that threw you a foot in the air over 401 bumps. We disembarked early and by 9:50 I was freezing my ass off



down in Confederation Park Pier 4. The only road down into the park was packed for two solid hours as people made the march downhill like Caesar's legion just back from Gaul, a sea of flags and standards, OSSTF blue and gold, OFT green, CAW blue, CUPE purple, Commiered. A band thundered tunes.

But nothing got anyone down. Muddy fields, overworked latrines, loud music, communists and Catholics and kids and coexistence. I offered a hand to one suburban-looking mom-cum-teacher struggling up the mud-slide hill so she could snap a picture of the amazing collection of people in the park below. As with most who braved the climb, she lost her footing and her camera-hand broke her fall — right into the goop. She got to her feet, inspected the muck-caked camera, laughed and snapped away.

I kept a silent watch atop the hill, helping several souls make the last steps upward — and smiled to myself when, without fail, every one of them gasped at the stream of people still arriving, stretching out of sight: "My God... they're still coming..."

Awe.

Back On The Bus

We were back on the bus by around 4 pm. Exhausted, hands frozen from taking notes, I collapsed in the back seat and let the western Sun bake me all the way home. I haven't slept so good in months.

And I look forward to more many more such night's sleeps. These city shutdowns are only beginning. It's not clear where the next one is going to be. One speaker said it was Toronto (as in shutting down the city? — no small task). Another speaker said it was North Bay.

But staring out the big bus windows, watching all the cars zooming by on the 401, I had to ask myself: "So what is next?"

A bigger strike, I answered myself. And then what? A still bigger strike. And then what? So Ontario labor matches France and gets two million people walking in one unified step, driving home to these Queen's Park dictators who controls what — then what? Do we all just go home and turn our

International Workers Aid to Bosnia

Two years have passed since the first IWA convoy rolled into Tuzla, the multi-ethnic mining town in Bosnia, a city where people still believe in the necessity of living and working together.

By then Tuzla was under blockade and very little humanitarian aid managed to get through. People were starving. Our little convoy was the first sign in a very long time that there was a world outside — and it was the first sign since the war started that unions actually cared about the destiny of Tuzla.

The delegation was quite multinational in itself: Sweden, Great Britain, Belgium and Australia were represented...

Solidarity is a word well known in Tuzla, where the miners had given proof of very practical solidarity both towards unfortunate members of their own union, Kreka miners TU, and towards the British miners during the strike in 1985-86.

Since then a lot of things have happened. IWA has struggled to maintain the support line with more or less regular convoys to the miners. The situation in Tuzla and Bosnia has changed immensely since that cold November night. The Bosnian-Croat federation has made it much easier to transport goods into Bosnia, but bureaucracy (especially the mess of papers demanded by the authorities in the self-invented Croatian state of Herceg-Bosna), truck problems and organizational problems with fair distribution have sometimes delayed our convoys for months. Then there is always a serious money problem.

Since IWA is a union-based organization which is not funded by any state or government, but by the goodwill of the working class, every successful convoy is the result of enormous efforts to raise money. Tuzla is no longer under blockade, and the food situation is therefore much, much better. Still, most people don't have any money and are more or less dependent on humanitarian aid.

The amateuristic method of driving trucks with assorted collected foodstuffs (and sometimes other things) all the way from Sweden turned out to be less efficient and far too expensive in all aspects but one — a very important one: the immeasurable value in the campaigning and collecting on a local level. The practical and very visible possibility to organize help and solidarity



work is the core of IWA's work, especially in Sweden where the campaign is broader than in other countries.

So we have compromised — every third month or so we drive a truck all the way down to the logistics office in Makarska, Croatia, and in between we collect money for buying flour, oil, sugar, pasta and rice in bulk from Croatian producers which reduces the transport costs dramatically.

The "bread programme" is still our main project, but both the miners and other groups in Tuzla have expressed a need for more reconstruction-oriented projects in order to strengthen local production and activity in the area... [The author describes projects ranging from mushroom cultivation to a shoe factory.]

Michel Wenzel of Sweden... has concentrated on contacts with the trade union federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The federation is working very hard right now to reconstruct the movement all over the country, and due to the changed war situation has been able to reach members in hitherto isolated parts, such as Bihac.

After one well-received convoy to the union building in Sarajevo, Michel and the staff in Makarska immediately started to organize a convoy to Bihac in cooperation

with the independent union in Croatia, UATUC. Food and blankets were brought to a textile factory, where it will be distributed to unemployed workers. The union can be seen as an important channel of democracy and multi-ethnicity in Bosnia, and we regard it as extremely important that their work gets as much support as possible right now as the fragile and vulnerable stage.

There are of course other groups which are and will be indispensable in the struggle — civil rights movements such as the Serb Civic Council, peace organizations, women's and students' associations, independent media, and so on. One of IWA's basic aims is to link these groups with similar groups in the rest of Europe to create solidarity networks across borders.

The future of International Workers Aid is unwritten, as futures usually are, but we believe that it is possible to play a part in the peace-making process in Bosnia on a grassroots level. IWA is a popular organization in Tuzla, Sarajevo and Bihac not primarily because of the (small amounts of) flour and oil we are able to bring, but because of our values and intentions.

Solidarity works, but it is hard work.

— Eva Moberg, SAC and IWA
(Box 6507, 113 83 Stockholm)

Labor Starting 'A Dynamic for Peace'

The following is excerpted from an interview with Omer Kamperovic, President of the Miners Union in the Tuzla region, Muhammed Gutic, President of the union at the Kreka mine, and Marinko Jakovac, mining engineer. The interview was conducted by Danish International Workers Aid member Vagn Rasmussen:

What is the prospect for real peace?

Muhammed: The war has destroyed all normal economic relations across Bosnia, and in most of former Yugoslavia. Much depends on whether we can make things run normally again. Tuzla coal is very clean.

Before the war we sold much of it to the territory now occupied by the Tchetniks (Bosnian Serb militia). But people there still need coal. And we need to sell coal. If economic ties are re-established, many of the problems will more-or-less solve themselves. People will realise how dependent we are on each other. We will start a dynamic which will be important for peace.

What about the role of the trade unions?

Omer: The trade unions must learn to fight for their real role in society. We must be independent of all political parties. This does not mean that unions should not have an opinion about what is going on in society as a whole. And our members should, of course, be allowed to be organised politically. But the union as such must be independent.

We are afraid that many things will change for the worse if peace really comes. We will see an influx of foreign capital, which will try to buy some of our industry and close the rest. In Croatia we can already see the results of privatisation. Many people end up in the street. To work in an industry owned by all society is better than to work in a private factory. You feel more sure that you have a job.

We have no great experience of dealing with private capital. We have a lot of things to learn in this respect from the workers' movement in Western Europe...

Labor Bosses on Foreign Turf

How do AFL-CIO pie-cards express solidarity with workers around the world? Why, through the bosses' government, of course!

The AFL-CIO's "international institutes" serve as fronts for such U.S. government agencies as the Agency for International Development (AID), which still pours billions of corporate welfare dollars into building "free" trade zones from El Salvador to the Philippines. "Only those programs that conform to U.S. foreign policy will be funded," says *The Democracy Backgrounder*, a monthly magazine published by the Interhemispheric Resource Center of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This is the type of "grassroots organizing" led by AFL-CIO President Sweeney, a long-time board member of the institutes. (Though the government has cut funding, which may force some reforms.)

Here's some examples, courtesy of *The Democracy Backgrounder*:

Latin America

One of the AFL-CIO's international institutes "conditioned its support of 'free trade unions' upon their willingness to oppose organizations and governments that were regarded as a threat by the U.S. government."

The unions supported by the AFL-CIO "frequently have no certifiable membership lists, no enforced dues structure, and ... no open-book policy." In Nicaragua, unions supported by the AFL-CIO refused to let members see their books.

In Costa Rica, an AFL-CIO institute

said they "are firmly convinced ... that the market-economy orientation should be the foundation of any development strategy." From that conclusion they support "solidarista associations," which are controlled by management.

In Haiti, an AFL-CIO institute helped form a union in co-operation with the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986. The U.S. State Department invited the AFL-CIO's imperial arm because of "the high risk that other unions may become radicalized."

In Cuba, the AFL-CIO supports the U.S. embargo, which is widely opposed by Cuban workers.

Africa

The AFL-CIO's African American Labor Center (AALC) received a \$25 million AID regional grant covers activities in thirty countries in the 1991-96 period. Funding for undermining unions in South Africa and Egypt are accounted for separately.

In Nigeria, an AFL-CIO institute-supported labor group broke the 1994 oil workers strike by unilaterally declaring the strike's end and negotiating with the Nigerian government, even though none of the strikers' demands had been met.

In South Africa, an AFL-CIO institute flies union bureaucrats to the U.S. for indoctrination on the virtues of "free" market economics. In October 1995, the largest South African trade union federation, COSATU, suspended all relations with the AFL-CIO. The U.S. labor federation had recently tried to pressure COSATU into supporting the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Eastern Europe

"As far as the AFL-CIO is concerned, the cold war is still on... They are ignoring the vast majority of organized workers," according to Leslie Diak, a lawyer formerly with an AFL-CIO institute in Moscow.

The institute helps to "explain why certain sacrifices have to be made" and "outline the final payoff citizens can expect in the future for their hard work in a free market system," its own documents say.

Resistance within the AFL-CIO to these programs has been unsuccessful thus far, though the AFL is cutting back on its foreign operations because the Republican Congress has reduced their funding.

For more information, look out for the March issue of *Democracy Backgrounder*, published by the Interhemispheric Resource Center, Box 4506, Albuquerque NM 87196.

The Dog Bone Economy

Imagine a dog bone economy in which 100 dogs compete for 90 bones. Every morning the dogs fight over the available bones until an equilibrium is reached in which the 90 best fighters end up with the 90 available bones. The other ten dogs lick their wounds. A troupe of social scientists study the fighting and produce data showing that bigger, more aggressive dogs get bigger bones while dogs without bones tend to be weaker and dispirited. They conclude that bonelessness is caused by a lack of strength and spirit and propose exercise and motivational training for the weaker dogs as a means of ending bonelessness. Will their strategy work?

Public Hospital Union Busted

The Salvadoran government has revoked the legal status of SIGEESAL, the Union of the General Industry of Health Workers, which represents workers at Hospital Rosales, the country's only public hospital, and won legal recognition in 1980.

This is the latest of several measures aimed at making an eventual sell-off of the hospital easier. SIGEESAL has actively resisted these moves, as the workers are dedicated to maintaining the hospital for the public and at the service of the poor.

The government has hired a private company for food service and security while laying off public workers. Cynically, the Ministry is challenging the union's legality based on its successful efforts to recruit these workers, claiming the union is in violation of the Labor Code, which defines a union as "formed by workers that exercise the same profession, art, skill or specialty."

On Jan. 25th, with no prior notification, the Ministry of Labor ordered the union dissolved. In February hospital administration had the union's office sealed off.

Write the Intl. Labor Organization's El Salvador representative to urge him to support reinstatement of SIGEESAL's legal status: Ian Chambers, Director Regional OIT; Apartado Postal 10170, 1000 San Jose, Costa Rica; Fax: 011-506-224-2678.

Victory At Jenny's Textiles

On Monday, 19 February 100 workers at Jenny's Textiles factory in Tottenham (U.K.) went on strike. Inspired by a recent union victory at J.J. Fast Foods and actively supported by the North/East London Textile Branch of the T&GWU, workers started signing up to the union and put a list of demands to: An end to illegal deductions from their pay (stlg10 per week which the boss pocketed); Proper tea and lunch breaks; Clean eating and toilet facilities.

After three days of talks the boss refused to make any concessions, so the workers struck.

They slung banners across the street and in front of the factory; distributed leaflets; faxed the press and sent flying pickets to other textile factories in Tottenham and Hackney. The bosses of all the neighbouring textile factories locked their door.

The entire workforce at Jenny's including the boss's relatives stopped work. When the middlemen came to collect their goods, the workers sat-in to prevent any collections or deliveries.

The T&G Regional Official arrived in the afternoon to find the boss desperate to settle? and obviously terrified of the consequences if he didn't. By evening, agreement

had been reached, and the workers had won union recognition, written contracts, grievance procedures; proper payment and pay slips, 15-minute tea-breaks, overtime payment after 6:30 p.m., kitchen and toilets to be brought up to proper Health and Safety standards.

The workers went back on 20 February with the sweet taste of victory. But they are aware that behind their boss stands much bigger bosses. The giant textile firms like Marks and Spencer are the main enemy. Small bosses like Jenny's depend on them and are squeezed by them.

But small victories can become the start of big ones. Already another textile factory in Hackney has been threatened with strike action by its workers; the boss responded by giving them the day off!

At Jenny's, the strike committee ensured that the workers as a whole were involved in the making and ratifying of every decision. They all learned from each other. Real democracy ensured real unity, strength and decisiveness in the action.

They won by ignoring all anti-union legislation and simply taking the decision to strike there and then until their demands were met.

Struggling in Guatemala

Some 500 outraged Department of Agriculture workers protested before Congress Feb. 22 demanding the reinstatement of 1,484 fired co-workers. The Agricultural Services Department Workers Union (SIT-RADIGESA) leadership condemned the dismissals, saying they will deny thousands of poor campesinos technical assistance. The protesters found some support in Congress. "It's unjust that while there's a budget for the military—a fossil on the verge of extinction—there are firings of productive workers in Guatemala who are aiding the development of the country," said New Guatemalan Democratic Front legislator Nineth Montenegro.

Two days earlier, the Broad Union Alliance (GAS), a new coalition of the country's major labor federations, condemned the firings in a letter to President Alvaro Arzu that also demanded salary increases for state workers.

Hostages in farm labor fight

After being held eight days by farm workers protesting the actions of an plantation administrator in San Marcos province, two hostages were freed Feb. 21.

Workers took over Los Cerros plantation in San Juan del Rodeo Feb. 13 to protest the dismissal of 127 fellow workers. Workers took a judge (still held at last word), his secretary and a farm supervisor hostage. Workers said the three had received bribes from the owners to harass them.

Liverpool dockers...

continued from page 12

close the port of Piraeus. We phone all the mass media and it will have a big support from other unions as well in Greece. If need be we will spread our support even further. We want you to win, and we believe you are going to win. We are with you."

Winding up the rally, Kevin Robinson declares, "if capitalism and big business has no boundaries, then trade unionism and struggle and solidarity world wide can have no boundaries. United, we will win."

As we drift off, Ciro is telling Women of the Waterfront, "when my brothers need me here, I'll be here, no problem I'll come."

by Greg Dropkin for LabourNet

The Mersey dockers' World Wide Web page including the whole of their newspaper, "Dockers Charter" is on URL: <http://www.gn.apc.org/labournet/docks/>

Threatened by death squads

On February 27, Vilma Cristina Gonzalez, the sister of Guatemalan unionist Reynaldo Gonzalez, was abducted, repeatedly raped, tortured and threatened with death if she and her brother did not leave the country and if her brother did not stop his activities in the labor movement.

Two days later, as Gonzalez was leaving her home, she saw the same black vehicle used in the kidnapping parked near her home. A man got out of the car and began to walk toward her. She ran, jumping onto a moving bus to escape. The suburban pursued the bus. When the bus stopped at a complex of maquilas, Gonzalez got off with a group of 25 women, hiding herself in the crowd. The bus left and the black vehicle continued to follow it, apparently under the impression that she was still on board.

Later that evening, a one-page letter was left under her door. Among insults and vulgarities, it warns: "We are giving you 48 hours to leave the country." "Prepare your coffin and that of your family, we are going to bury your two daughters in the same coffin with you. We already told you that we are going to rape them." On March 4 another death note was found slipped under the door of Gonzales' home. On March 6, Reynaldo Gonzalez received a written death

Liverpool dockers meeting backs Mexican drivers

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Dockworkers International Conference 17th-23rd February:

Whereas the struggle against privatisation and casualisation to workers worldwide is critical and,

Whereas over 12,000 bus drivers in Mexico City who are members of Sutura-100 have been sacked and the Ruta-100 bus line has been privatized and,

Whereas union leaders and legal representative have been jailed since the union went on strike against privatisation and,

Whereas the working class of Mexico has been victimised by the policies of GATT, the IMF and NAFTA,

Therefore be it Resolved:

That this International Dockers' Conference calls for the immediate release of the jailed Sutura-100 unionists in Mexico City and furthermore, we call for an end to privatization of Ruta-100 and attacks against Mexican workers...

Unionists killed in Colombia

A death squad has assassinated Francisco Mosquera Cordova and Carlos Arroyo de Arco, two workers for the Maderas de Darién Company, in the Uraba region. Workers from the Rio Salagui Work Front had a meeting Feb 5 at which they prepared a petition to be presented to the company. Shortly after the meeting, Mosquera Cordova and Arroyo de Arco were attacked by an armed group of unidentified men.

During the last few years, many workers and union leaders have been murdered by paramilitary groups, and security forces. Most of these actions have gone unpunished. Please write the Colombian authori-

ties urging them to: guarantee an impartial and exhaustive enquiry into the facts, identify those responsible and bring them to trial; prevent and put an end to the perpetration of such acts and ensure appropriate protection for all threatened persons and sectors; ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Addresses: Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano, Presidente de la Republica, Palacio de Narino, Santafe de Bogota, Colombia. Fax: + 571-286-7434; Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento, Fiscal General de la Nación, Calle 35, N-B0 4-31, Santafe de Bogota, Colombia. Fax +571-211-6676



threat and was followed by two men.

Tensions between the business sector and labor movement are very high on GSP at this time because the U.S. government has told the Guatemalan government that in six months GSP benefits will be suspended or the probation ended depending on what steps the new government takes to improve respect for worker rights.

Following GSP testimony before the U.S. Trade Representative in Washington in November 1993 on worker rights violations, Reynaldo Gonzalez went into seclusion for three months. He received several threats in 1994, some linked specifically to his GSP work. Shortly before he met with a US government delegation to Guatemala in November 1995, a caller to his office asked where to send flowers for his funeral. Since early December unknown men have on several occasions come to his office and questioned his secretary as to his whereabouts.

Reynaldo Gonzalez has been an active member of the directorate of the Union

Federation of Bank and Insurance Employees of Guatemala (FESEBS) for several years. He was elected General Secretary of the federation in January 1996. He has also been active in the formation of the Gran Alianza Sindical (GAS), a recent effort to unify the Guatemalan labor movement.

Please contact President Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen, President of the Republic, National Palace, Guatemala City, Guatemala. Fax: 502-2-537-472. Urge him to take all steps necessary to protect the families of Vilma Cristina Gonzalez and her brother Reynaldo Gonzalez, secretary general of FESEBS and initiate a prompt and thorough investigation to apprehend and prosecute those responsible for the brutal rape of Ms. Gonzalez. Add that given Mr. Gonzalez's prominent role in the GSP process, you are especially concerned about this case.

It is just as important to send a message to Guatemalan business. Please fax a copy of your letter to Dr. Gabriel Biguria, President, GEXPRONT, 502-2-323590.

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Bosses' Economy Thrives on Misery...

continued from page 1

with huge bonuses.

Even the boss press is finally forced to recognize this reality, even if they paint it as a strange mystery beyond the ability of ordinary mortals to fathom. The cover of the Feb. 26 *Newsweek*, for example, features mug shots of four CEO's responsible for eliminating thousands of jobs. Above this rogues' gallery a banner headline screams "Corporate killers." "Wall Street loves layoffs," the subhead explains. "But the public is scared as hell..."

The article gives the gory details: Robert Allen, CEO of AT&T, is paid \$3.3 million a year; in January he announced 40,000 layoffs. IBM CEO Louis Gerstner makes \$2.6 million; he slashed 63,000 jobs two years ago. Similar data is given for 11 other corporate chiefs.

"When AT&T... announced... it would fire 40,000 people," *Newsweek* noted, "the stock market went nuts. AT&T shares roared upward. Bob Allen said he felt bad about firing people but saw no point in giving up some of his pay or perks... [and] saw no reason to apologize. Allen made more than \$5 million when the value of his stock and options soared after the layoffs were announced."

USA Today got into the act February 19 with their lead article, "Restructuring and layoffs, here to stay." An accompanying chart shows that real earnings of the bottom two-thirds of workers have fallen 5.5 percent since 1979. "Particularly hard hit: women and minorities, Hispanic, Asian and African American workers, tend to have less seniority..."

"When will it all end?" the paper asks. Answer: "It won't... Few doubt the 21st century corporation will be far faster to hire and fire than its 20th-century counterpart."

And the March 3rd *New York Times* begins a seven-part series, *The Downsizing of America*, with a report headlined "On the Battlefields of Business, Millions of Casualties." They discuss the devastating impact of "downsizing" (a euphemism for eliminating people's jobs and throwing them on the industrial scrap heap), noting that some 43 million jobs have been eliminated in the past 16 years. While most of those workers have found new jobs, the jobs that were eliminated generally paid much better.

The result, as the headline writer recognized, is "millions of casualties" in the class war—unemployed, homeless, or locked into low-paid dead-end jobs.

Newsweek offers several excuses for the corporate hit men, ranging from lagging productivity to the need to be "competitive" in the global market. But productivity has been increasing even as wages and employment falls (indeed, it is our increased productivity and longer working hours which enable the bosses to throw our fellow workers on the scrap heap).

Output per person in manufacturing is higher in the U.S. than in seven of the ten other leading industrialized countries. In Western Europe and Japan working hours have been slashed 27 percent since 1960; in the U.S., they have increased by 1.5 percent.

The politricksters have recently begun talking about the economy again, conceding that people are scared and with good reason. But they offer nothing but xenophobia, cash payments to make the bosses even richer, reduced protections for the environment and workplace safety, weaker unions, and more education to produce even more highly skilled workers chasing the handful of jobs which pay a living wage. The only jobs program they offer are programs to throw more workers in prison, and to make those workers take jobs at slave wages. It's getting pretty bad when the only way to get

Global Village or Global Pillage?

Global Village or Global Pillage by Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello, South End Press, \$14.

"If you fear that the growing freedom of corporations to move jobs around the world threatens you and what you value," the authors announce, "you are probably right." They then go on to demonstrate that the situation is a good deal worse than most of us had thought. The "race to the bottom" is on. Conditions worldwide are falling rapidly toward those of the poorest and most desperate, and nearly all of us will be losers.

"Globalization," as Brecher and Costello point out, is shorthand for "globalization of capital," a great idea for a few hundred global corporations but not so good for the rest of us. We can look forward to "rising unemployment, falling real incomes, mass layoffs, cutbacks in public services, deteriorating working conditions, elimination of small farms and businesses, accelerating destruction of the environment, and loss of democratic control over... governments and societies."

The statistics cited are disturbing, to put it mildly. Real wages are down 15 percent since 1973 (30 percent for young families), despite a near doubling of productivity. The median income of college-educated men 45 to 54, supposedly the elite of our society, is down 17 percent. Poor countries are falling more and more under the thumb of unaccountable and secretive organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and even First World lands such as France are not immune to corporate pressure. The toll goes on and on.

What Brecher and Costello offer, however, is far more than a lamentation over the ruins of the American Dream or a picture of ghastly things to come. First, they give a historical overview of what has happened in the decades since World War I destroyed international labor solidarity, a cause the IWW fought valiantly to protect, and the

a job is to go to jail. With the exception of Pat Buchanan's xenophobia, these "solutions" would certainly improve the business climate. But it's not at all clear that we can survive an improved business climate.

As we have seen, the business climate improves when more of us are out of work, when those who do have jobs work at the undisputed command of the master class, when wages and benefits are driven into the ground. As we improve the conditions of the vast majority, the working class, the business climate falters.

So let's organize to finish off this class of parasites once and for all, and dump their rotten economic system—which profits off misery and fears widespread prosperity—on the scrap heap. After all, as the stock markets show us every day, it's either us or them.

JB

regulated capitalism of the '40s gave way in the '70s to the corporate agenda to be imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in the Third World and GATT, NAFTA and the World Trade Organization elsewhere.

The authors also show that the old doctrine of "comparative advantage," which urged countries to specialize in the items they could produce most easily and trade for whatever else they needed, no longer explains today's world, since it dealt with goods and not capital. What Brecher and Costello call *The Flawed Debate between "free trade" vs. "protectionism"* is therefore a useless exercise, since nation-states no longer control even their own economies, much less that of the world. A lapse into fascism, militarism or even war by the most disadvantaged countries will lead only to more poverty and chaos.

The problem is international and can only be solved by international measures, not primarily among states but among workers everywhere who are resolved not to be pitted against one another and not to be thrust back from the good life into poverty, or from poverty into misery. As Brecher and Costello note, the struggle must become truly global if it is to have any hope of achieving the upward leveling that will raise living and working standards everywhere.

Self interest must be linked to common interest through coalitions that unite constituencies across borders in ways already pioneered by ecology and human rights organizations. For its part, the American labor movement has much to forget from its Cold War past and much to learn for today if it is to protect workers here or anywhere

else.

In the final chapter, Brecher and Costello assure us they "have tried to put together... a coherent alternate agenda, not just a laundry list of wished-for outcomes." But we could still wish that they had given more "nuts and bolts" on just how we are to "recapture governments from global corporations" or "establish the right to self-organization" in the concrete, and told us how they rate the chances of success.

Book Review

But there is no doubt that resistance is growing both in strength and consciousness from the jungles of Chiapas with the Mexican Zapatistas and their demand for repudiation of NAFTA to the strikers on the boulevards of Paris. Basically, the general strike in France was about working conditions there. More broadly speaking, however, it was a warning from the French working class that France will be run for the good of the French and not for the benefit of a consortium of international corporations.

At home, even dyed-in-the-wool capitalist Stephen Roach of Morgan Stanley had obviously got Brecher and Costello's message when he noted in a recent interview that "employees want to get a piece of the benefits they feel they have been delivering to the companies' bottom lines. These tensions are setting the stage for a potential round of worker backlash that could lead to a major change in the US economic environment, if it is not addressed quickly and adequately." Yes indeed.

—John Gorman

THE GREAT HUNGERS

One hundred and fifty years ago, Ireland starved.

The Irish poor who ate potatoes for breakfast, lunch and dinner had no spuds to eat. A fungus caused the crop to rot in the fields.

But it wasn't this potato blight that caused mass suffering.

A tiny elite of mostly absentee landlords owned huge sections of the country. Much of the population lived in countryside, working small farms rented from landlords. The rural poor existed at a subsistence level, living largely on potatoes.

Throughout the famine years (1845-1850) Ireland exported tons of barley, oats and other grains while thousands died of starvation. Food left market towns for export to England under armed guard.

Ireland had no control over its own affairs. All political decisions were made in England. And the English government had no plans to reform agricultural land ownership.

Instead, English politicians believed that government intervention in the economy was a greater evil than human suffering. Authorities stubbornly refused to take any steps to stop the export of grain from Ireland. Free trade ruled.

Rather than interfere with private enterprise, the government insisted that all relief efforts be voluntary. The Irish were not to be deprived of their "self-reliance."

Most of the poor were unable to pay their rents; landlords eagerly cleared their lands of starving tenants. The authorities willingly supplied troops and police to assist landlords in evictions. Emigrants filled "coffin ships," ill-equipped, old and overcrowded. Many died of fever crossing the Atlantic; many more died upon arrival. Others fled to the slums of British factory towns.

Out of a population of 8.17 million, some 1.5 million people starved outright or died of starvation-related diseases; another million emigrated.

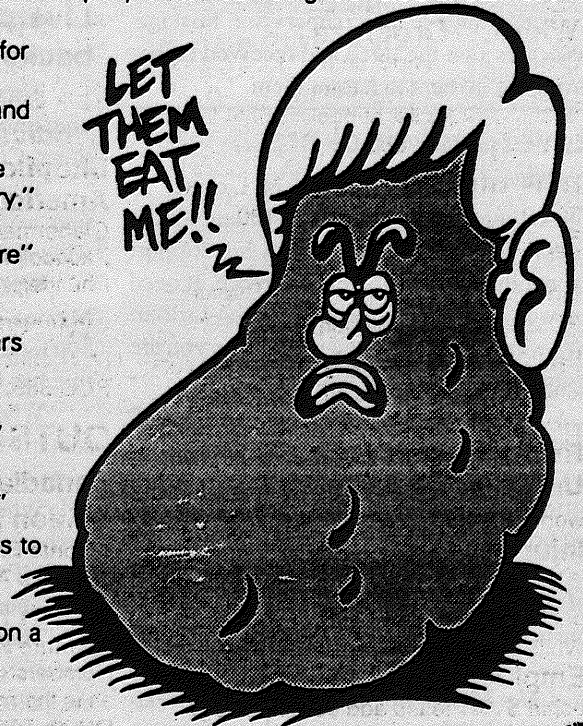
Many more would have died had it not been for the generosity of some landlords, individual donations, church-sponsored soup kitchens and other acts of kindness.

House Speaker Gingrich describes this as the "volunteerism that worked in the 19th century." But it didn't. Unnecessary deaths occurred because the government refused to "interfere" in the economy.

Motivated by the same ideology that immobilized the English government 150 years ago, today's U.S. Congress seeks to systematically dismantle the safety net that keeps America's poor from the abject misery and famine found in the Third World.

And at the same time, plant closings, NAFTA, unionbusting, corporate downsizing, new technology and racism are bringing thousands to the brink of despair.

Leaving solutions entirely to the market or private charity is still an invitation to tragedy on a mass scale.



TEXT BY PETER GILMORE

Labor History...

We offer a limited stock of academic labor studies, (auto-)biographies of activists, and labor history. Many are out of print. Available while supplies last...

Hard Rock Epic, Western Miners and the Industrial Revolution, 1860-1910 by Mark Wyman, \$13.

The Road to Rebellion, Class Formation and Kansas Populism, 1865-1900 by Scott McNall, pub'd \$49.95, now \$20.

Blue-Collar Aristocrats, Life-Styles at a Working-Class Tavern by E.E. LeMasters, pub'd at \$25, now \$15.

RAW, High Culture for Lowbrows ed. by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly, \$10.

X, Pictures by Sue Coe by Coe and Judith Moore, \$5. Life of Malcolm X.

Emma Goldman in Exile, From the Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler, pub'd at \$24.95, \$14.

Year One of the Russian Revolution by Victor Serge, pub'd at \$24.75, now \$12.

"Yours for the Revolution," The Appeal to Reason, 1895-1922 ed. John Graham, pub'd at \$19.95, now \$10.

The Union League Movement in the Deep South by Michael Fitzgerald, \$12.

Plain Folk in the New South: Social Change and Cultural Persistence, 1880-1915 by I.A. Newby, published at \$35, \$10.

The Dispossessed: America's Underclasses from the Civil War to the Present by Jacqueline Jones, pub'd at \$25, now \$16.

Live From Death Row by Mumia Abu-Jamal. Published at \$20, \$17 from us.

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long. 420 pp., \$10.00, paper.

Woodie's 20 Grow Big Songs. Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, 50 pages, published at \$16, now \$10.

The Disappearance of Local 717: An Underground History of Packard Electric by Benjamin Sachs, pamphlet, \$3.

Women of Valor: The Struggle Against the Great Depression as Told in Their Own Life Stories edited by Sternshev and Sealander, pub'd at \$26.95, now \$12.

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the aWobblies by Tom Copeland. 232 pp., \$17.50, paper.

Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. \$9.95, paper.

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. edited by Joyce Kornbluh.

Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. \$22

Sabotage in the American Workplace. edited by Martin Sprouse.

Tales of shop-floor resistance to speed-ups, bum pay and the drudgery of wage slavery. \$12

One Big Union. by IWW.

The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Edition)

103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10

Canadian IWW Songbook

41 songs by Arlene Mantle, Rick Fielding, Faith Nolan, Len Wallace & others, with music & chords. \$5.

1923 IWW Songbook

Facsimile reprint of IWW Songs, \$5

Posters by Carlos Cortez

Lucy Parsons, Ben Fletcher or Joe Hill. \$15

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid. by Carlos Cortez.

IWW artist's poetic take on life today. \$4

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917

compiled by Rob Hanson. \$2.50

Bumperstickers

Six bumperstickers, each with IWW Globe on left. Slogans: Solidarity Forever, One Big Union, Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!, Don't Mourn Organize, Labor is Entitled to All It Creates. Black on durable white stock, \$1.25 each, post-paid.

Video Documentary

Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend
28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$20.00

Eward Agee & Walker Evans. Text and photos of 1930s workers. 467 pp., \$9.

The Kid From Hoboken, An Autobiography: Bill Bailey, \$12.95.

A People Betrayed - November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. 638 pp., \$8.00, paper.

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Sabo-Cat, Wobbly Globe, (S, M only) **General Strike** (S, M, L, XL) \$12 each, 100% cotton. State size & color (red or white) San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140. **Film Workers** (worker stepping over Hollywood sign), **One Big Union** \$10 Red shirts, black print. Button: **Don't Whine - Organize** Film Workers Organizing Committee IU 630. \$1. Los Angeles GMB, 1748 Clinton St., LA CA 90026. Ask for list of books about the IWW. 213-353-9885.

IWW Globe Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, \$14. Denver Group, 1130 Bannock, Denver CO 80204

Sab-Cat \$8. Lehigh Valley Branch, PO Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

I'm A Little Wobbly Red with black kitten (childrens sizes 11-12 & 14-16 only) \$8. **The Hand That Will Rule the World - One Big Union** Grey pocket-t, IWW on pocket, workers with fist on back. \$15. **An Injury To One Is An Injury To All** Navy pocket-t, SLC branch seal on pocket, sab cat on back \$15. **Joe Hill** White t with picture by FW Cortez \$10. **Employing Class** Red sabo cat t-shirt \$10. Please add \$5 for postage/handling. Salt Lake IWW, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514

Workers Guide to Direct Action. Workers Guide to Organizing \$2.95 each. Lehigh Branch. Ask for catalog
Workers Guide to Direct Action 75¢ Collective Bargaining Manual \$2.50. New York GMB, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348
The Objectives of Anarcho-Syndicalism by Rudolf Rocker. \$1.
Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

IWW "Wings" 3" wide bullion pin, IWW Globe surrounded by sabots. \$10. POB 8882, Baltimore MD 21224-0882.

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Songbook \$5. **36th Edition Little Red Songbook** \$10. Toronto Branch, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2

British Isles - a selection of IWW literature is available from F. Lee, IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB, as is the magazine *Burning Fuse* £1

Black IWW t-shirts, red globe logo £5 plus post and packing from Oxford IWW

Books for Rebel Workers

Solidarity Unionism.

by Staughton Lynd.
Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. \$7

The General Strike.

Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger. Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland. by Peter Rachleff

P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community-based unionism. \$12

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz.

Rank & file insurgencies, maquila-doras and NAFTA all get attention. The need for world labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer. by Staughton Lynd.

Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism. by David F. Noble.

Technology is a political question, and too often workers are excluded from the deci-

Music/Song

Good News. Sweet Honey in the Rock

All Used Up. Utah Phillips

Don't Mourn, Organize! Songs of Joe Hill by various artists

Rebel Voices. Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs

I Have Seen Freedom. Si Kahn

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years. Utah Phillips - Wobbly songs.

As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler
Smash the State and Have a Nice Day. Citizens Band

It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids

A World to Win. Tom Juravich

Greenfire. Dakota Sid & Travers Clifford

Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King

Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich

Look to the Left. Anne Feeney

All Cassettes: \$10 each

sions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses. \$15

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.

A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. \$5

Break Their Haughty Power.

by Eugene Nelson.
Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. \$12

Solidarity Forever-An oral history of the IWW. Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds.

A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

Mad in the USA.

by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki.
Their third cartoon collection. "These unbeholden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." \$12

Working the Waterfront.

Wobbly longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells of 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank-and-file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher.

A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. \$15

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.

A short history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strikes through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. \$5

Power! by MacShane, Plaut & Ward.

Black workers' fight to improve everyday life and transform South Africa. \$8

Juice is Stranger than Friction.

by T-Bone Slim.
Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected for the first time. \$8

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin.
The memoirs of a rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s. How they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

Silent Agitators

10 designs to a sheet. 50 cents a sheet, minimum order 4 sheets. Wet and stick.

IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! \$1 each

Black Cat/Direct Action

IWW Globe circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

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Labor Boycott Hits USA Today

The AFL-CIO, advancing its support of striking newspaper workers in Detroit, is calling for a broad boycott of *USA Today*, the national newspaper produced by Gannett. At their annual winter meeting in Bal Harbor, Florida, AFL-CIO leaders agreed to take on Gannett's flagship newspaper and that of Knight-Ridder, the *Miami Herald*. Knight-Ridder owns the *Detroit Free Press*. Gannett owns the *Detroit News*.

The campaign is still developing, but will include convincing advertisers that *USA Today* is "an unnecessary venue" and encouraging hotels and airlines to stop providing *USA Today*. Gannett is a media powerhouse with 92 daily newspapers and 15 television stations and cable TV systems in five states.

At least 23 people, including two bishops and the president of the Detroit City Council, were arrested March 7 when 750 demonstrators staged a protest in front of the *Detroit News* building. The demonstration was organized by a coalition of religious and community leaders in support of about 2,500 press workers, mailers and newsroom employees who have been on strike since July 13. Workers are resisting efforts by the profitable (before the strike) newspapers to slash wages, benefits and jobs.

Although they have managed to publish a paper each day since the walkout, the companies lost more than \$90 million in 1995 from the strike. Circulation at the scab newspapers is down by 35 percent according to distribution workers, and the scabs deliver papers to those willing to receive



them only sporadically. The *Free Press* and *News* are sending out thousands of bills saying, in effect, "We know service is lousy. Please send in what you think you owe."

Automotive advertising was down 41 percent in January. Skid after skid of pre-printed advertising inserts intended for Sunday papers are being scrapped, since circulation is down. Only a 75 percent rate cut convinced Valassis, the grocery couponer, not to bolt the newspapers, according to sources inside the newspapers.

In other strike news, a recent list of 110 arrests printed in the *News* somehow omitted scab carriers convicted of exploding

chemical bombs at the home of a Ferndale Teamster.

Lt. Frank Mowinski, of the Sterling Heights Police Department, has been identified as a participant in a taped phone conversation in October in which gross acts of violence and entrapment against strikers were discussed. Mowinski is a leader of the Sterling Heights anti-strike task force; he works closely with newspaper and private security officials. On the tape with Mowinski, an Oxford Township police officer is quoted saying, among other things, "We were really hoping to set those suckers up, man."

On the Waterfront of the World

Driving north along the dock road in brilliant sunshine, the coach passes a long line of container lorries stalled in front of Seaforth. Grain storage terminals and the big blue cranes of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company over behind the gate where a hundred dockers are waiting.

Twenty minutes ago at North Huskisson dock we looked like a party of international tourists, clicking cameras. Then someone spotted a car with James Bradley, the scab whose father began this strike by sacking the 80 "Torside Tigers." Air hissing out of his tyres, Bradley found himself blocked in. Gerry Quigley from Derry told him to "save up and buy yourself a set of balls" while the Spanish contingent stood in front singing "No, no, no, nos moveran" (We shall not be moved).

Then we marched on Gladstone dock, where coal imports from the US and Columbia have helped the Government attack the miners and dust from the terminal drifts inland over the local community. Liverpool dockers' faces lit up at the sight of the international contingent. Lars, a Swedish syndicalist, told of collecting for the strike outside the cinema showing "Land and Freedom." Liverpool dockers went to fight in Spain during the Civil War, the favour is being repaid.

And now at Seaforth the dockers are chanting "the workers, united, will never be defeated" and the Spanish reply "Obreros, unidos, jamas sera vencidos." Francisco Mellado vows to chain himself to a ship in Bilbao if that's what it takes to shut down trade with Liverpool.

Mounted police hem us in as we march behind the Swedish banner along the Crosby Road. To our left, the terminals where ACL, CanMar, CAST and the rest of the container trade is loaded and unloaded by scabs. To our right, Daleks on horseback. We pat the horses and scream at the cops, whistles and sirens signalling our power.

At the gates to the Freeport, Women of the Waterfront are shouting, "Dockers In,

Scabs Out." The march halts to form a huge ring, chanting "The Workers United..." And the women sing "We've got the whole world, in our hands..." Everyone presses forward to the gate.

Ina Heidman from the Maritime Union of Australia is the only woman amongst the international delegation. "I know that you're going to win this victory and when we go home we're going to make sure that it continues until it is resolved in your favour."

"These people don't know what they've started," says her colleague Jim Donavan. "Because what they have started, we're going to finish. The lads from Australia will make sure that before the day is over, whether it be this day, tomorrow, or the next day, is a victory not only for the Liverpool workers but also all dockers and seafarers the world over."

Jack Heyman from the ILWU in San Francisco has a message for Bernard Cliff. "For the time being you can load these containers with scabs. But they're not going to be unloaded in the other ports around the world. And only for the time being because we're going to come back here in bigger and bigger and bigger numbers until we win this strike."

Michel Murray of the Dockers Union in Montreal sees "in the eyes of the Liverpool dockers, the young ones and the older ones, in the eyes of their families, the children, that the victory is gonna be soon." The megaphone packs in. Kevin Robinson explains, "It's a police one, you've got to beat it up first," and the crowd groans.

Michel carries on, "we already started what we call Operation Liverpool. We don't have the right to blockade a ship in our country. But we do have the right to fuck it up!" We all cheer.

Gerry Quigley of the T&GWU in the Six counties (Northern Ireland) has heard that "Mr. Cliff wished to address the delegates. I spoke to my colleagues from Derry. We will meet Mr. Cliff, but I'm afraid he'll have to come into a square ring, because

that's the only thing this company will respond to. I would like to say to each and every docker, we don't talk about if you win your strike. We talk about when you win your strike. Victory to the Liverpool dockers. Victory to the working class."

Ciro Oriljo from the portworkers co-op in Salerno is a cross between football fan and film star. Through the interpreter he claims to be "a man of very few words, which is unusual for an Italian." "Before now it was maybe only Liverpool football that was known around the world, now it's the Liverpool dockers that are known around the world."

Terry Ryan says New Zealand waterfront workers have a saying, "United we Bargain, Divided we Beg. From what I've seen here you won't be doing any begging. It's gonna be a complete victory. It mightn't be tomorrow, but it will come because the momentum is gathering all over the world. Stick in there and power to your arm."

Nico Georgiou announces to wild applause that "solidarity with the Liverpool dockers is put into action and tomorrow we

continued on page 9

Boss assaults gay Seattle worker

A former electronics technician for Seattle firm, Ray Electric, was attacked by his boss in retaliation for a gay pride bumper sticker. When Raymond Kluger saw the sticker on Keith Wallinger's truck he attacked the worker, grabbing his head and pulling it back and forth. He knew Wallinger had broken his neck in the Gulf War.

Then Kluger fired Wallinger and began a campaign of telephone harassment, phoning him at home several times to make obscene and disparaging comments about the Wallinger's sexual orientation.

Wallinger has suffered extreme physical pain since the assault, and can't work. Ray Electric has blocked the state approval needed before he can get the Department of Labor and Industries to pay for the required medical treatment.

AFL plans town meetings on work

The AFL-CIO is planning a series of "town meetings" to provide an opportunity for workers to speak out publicly about their lives and jobs. Interested community organizations will reportedly also be invited to participate. The meetings are part of the AFL's "America Needs a Raise" campaign intended to support the federation's electoral efforts by promoting its position on such issues as the minimum wage, corporate responsibility, worker rights, the widening gap between the rich and ordinary wage earners, etc.

Meetings are planned for 27 cities: Atlanta, Baltimore, Billings (Montana), Birmingham, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Detroit/Lansing, Erie (Penn.), Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Louisville, Milwaukee, Nashville, New York City, Oklahoma City, Pittsburgh, Portland (Maine), Portland (Oregon), Raleigh-Durham, San Jose, Seattle, Trenton (NJ), Washington, D.C. and Wichita.

A union of scabs

The meltdown of the union local representing A.E. Staley workers continues. Jim Shinall, who UPIU officials put in to shut down workers' resistance, has resigned as Local 7837 president after only two months in office, refusing to work under the contract he signed. Only one of the local's four officers remains. Only 147 of the 181 workers who returned under Staley's yellow-dog contract are still in the plant. But Staley refuses to rehire 44 laid-off union members, instead insisting that 200 scabs hired during the lock-out be kept on. The scabs will be required to join the union in April. The Staley official who headed the union-busting effort has been promoted to Tate & Lyle's head office in London, where he is being groomed to replace the current CEO.

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
 Name: _____ Occupation: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker